PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Small gardens issue

uplifting designs to bring small spaces to life

Tulbaghia

for elegance and scent

14 SPACE SAVING ESSENTIALS

PLANTING PASSIONS

Helen Dillon's masterful mix of the unusual and familiar

EXPERTS' CHOICE Seeds to sow now

California cool

garden design meets native ecology

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1. Willis Towers Watson directly manages $148.6 billion for institutional investors, as at 30 June 2020, and advises them on $3.4 trillion, as at 31 December 2019. 2. MSCI All Country World Index.

Editor's letter

In this issue of *Gardens Illustrated* we focus on design and planting ideas for small gardens, including a colourful, useful space outside an architecturally designed house in Clapham, a serpentine garden inspired by an adjacent water reserve and a family garden in Kent using vernacular materials. Cool planting with a polish is the recurring theme.

Further afield, on page 88, we visit the intriguing garden of a post-modern Californian house designed by West Coast movers and shakers Terremoto. The design of the garden includes native Californian trees and hints of the scrub and chaparral of the local landscape with the intention of drawing people and nature together.

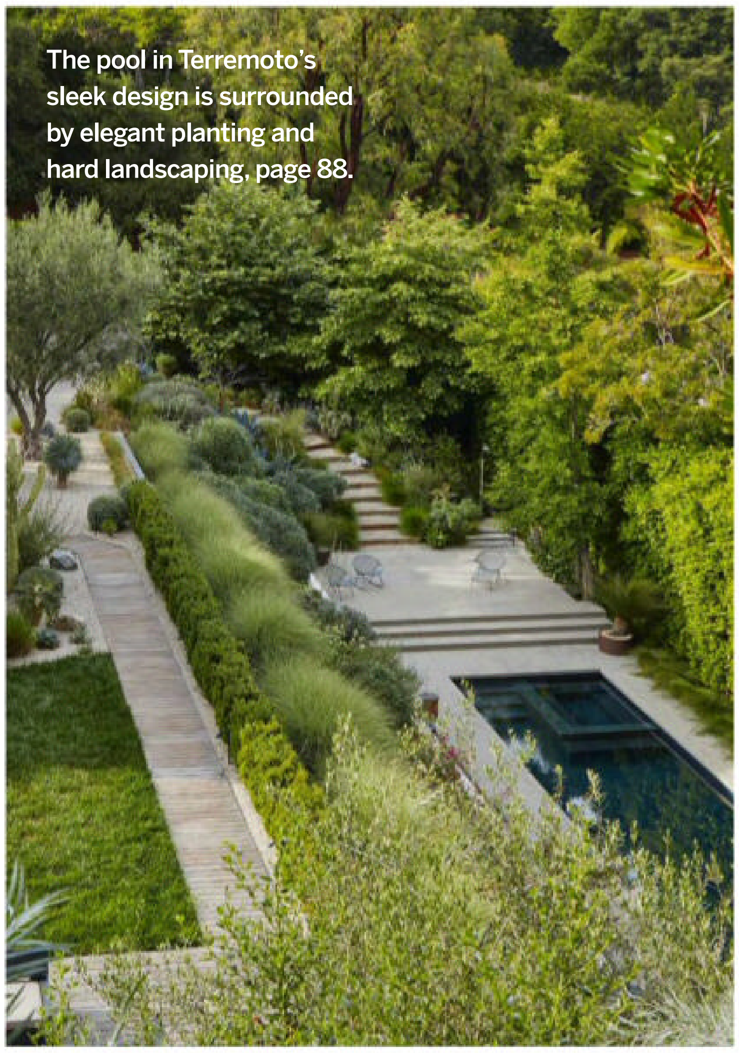
In the 1950s Vita Sackville-West wrote from Sissinghurst that 'Everyone knows that the seeds of hardy annuals may be sown in August and September, and that the resultant plants will be sturdier and come into flower earlier than those we sow in spring.' With this in mind, we ask three leading plantspeople to choose their favourite hardy annuals to sow now, into the last, lingering warmth of the soil.

This issue also marks my last as editor of *Gardens Illustrated* and a new beginning for me. It's been hugely thrilling to edit the genre-defining magazine, and to be one of only four editors in *Gardens Illustrated*'s 28-year history, as well as to work with such a brilliant editorial team. *Gardens Illustrated* is considered by many to be a national treasure and I look forward to following its continued success.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



The pool in Terremoto's sleek design is surrounded by elegant planting and hard landscaping, page 88.

CAITLIN ATKINSON

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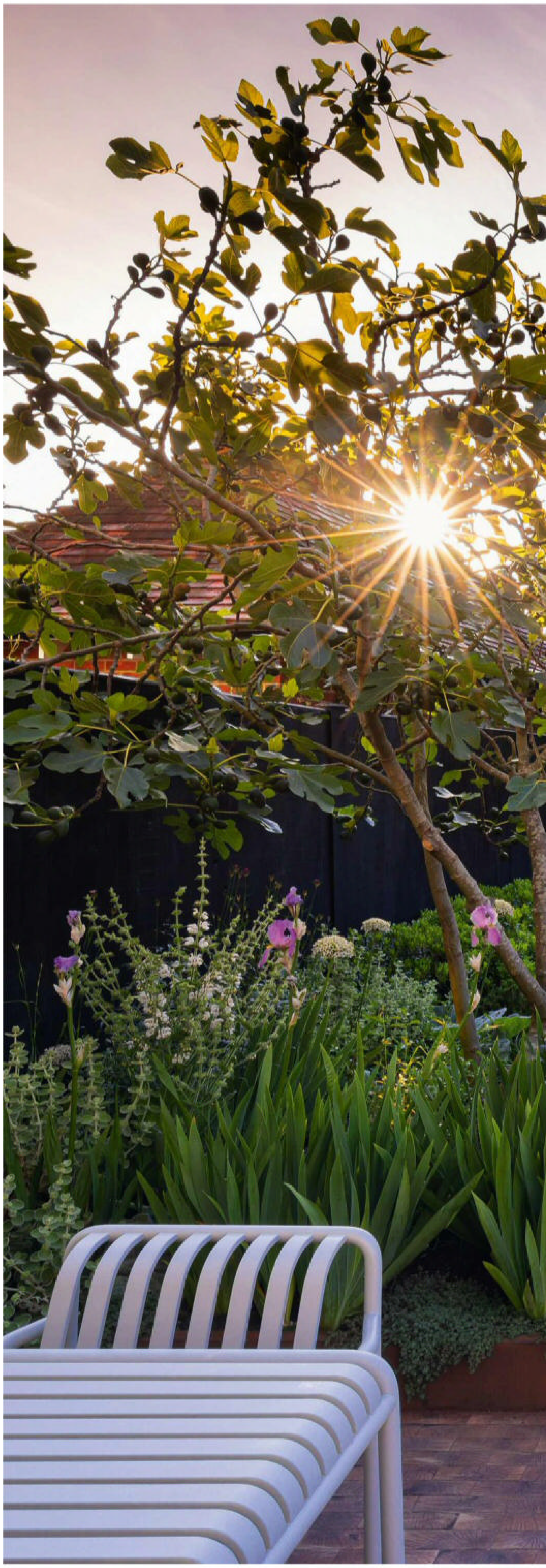
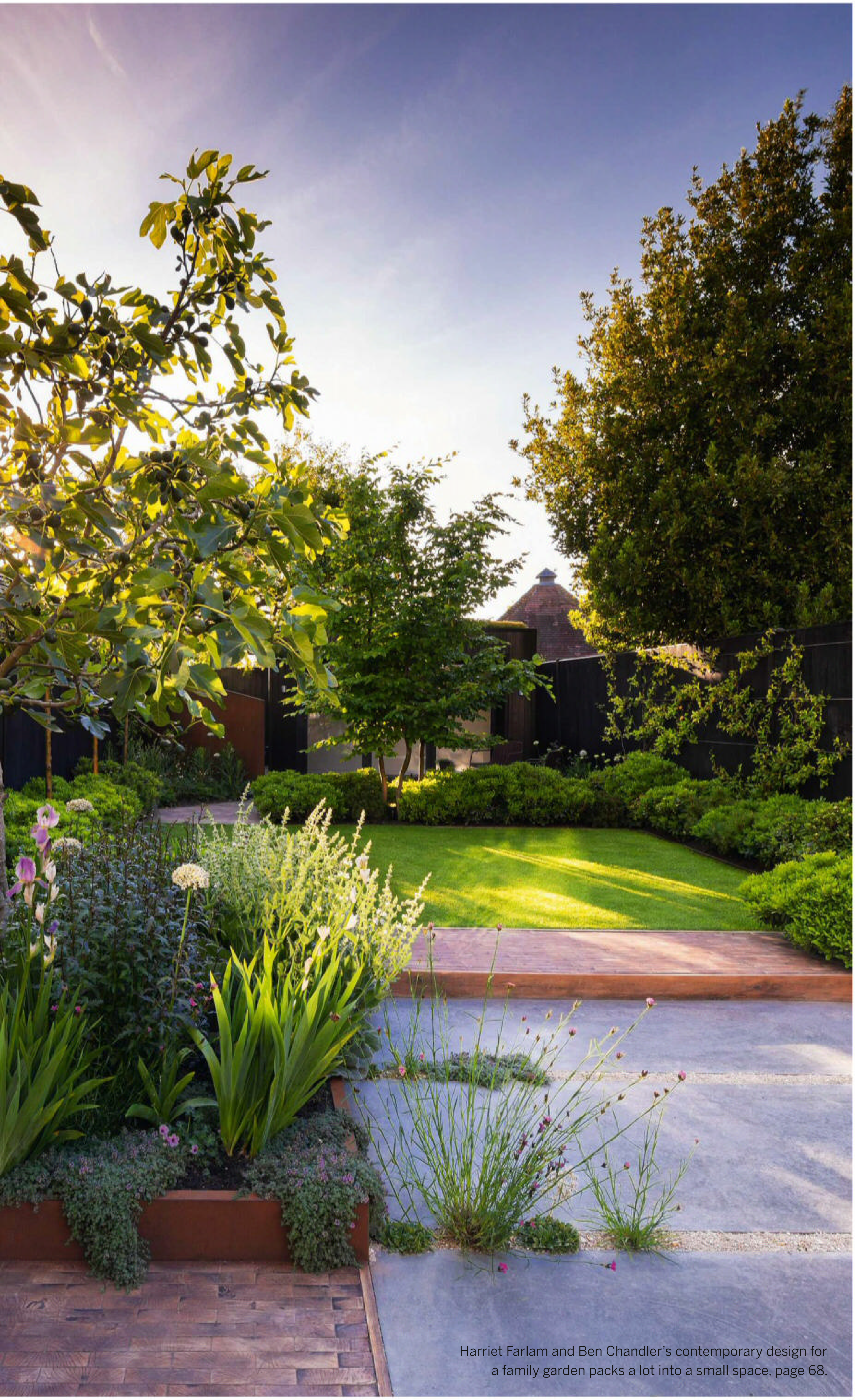

RICHARD BLOOM



Harriet Farlam and Ben Chandler's contemporary design for a family garden packs a lot into a small space, page 68.

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Small Bristol garden
by Jason Ingram

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- Start planning your year of garden visits with our round-up of reader holidays for the next 12 months – page 10
- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 32
- Save 15%* on three spring-flowering bulb collections from Organic Bulbs† – page 114

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Horti:couture
Make a date for our annual **Autumn Conference** from the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** online and in-person on Saturday 9th October 2021

For centuries **plants and gardens** have clearly been influential on fashion sensibility. The fashion industry's most lauded designers are known for recurrent themes around **flora and gardens** and the influence of their own gardens on their work.

For our 2021 Autumn Conference we explore **the influence of plants, gardens and landscapes on fashion** and the favour that fashion returns to our work as gardeners, horticulturists and designers.

Visit our website **lcgd.org.uk** for more information on our speakers and our ticket options starting at £59. The conference will be available with very limited in-person tickets at Kew and will also be broadcast online.

LC GD LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk

Contributors

Lia Leendertz
Lia visits Louise Dowding's garden, page 50. *"Louise's garden has such a strong personality, and makes wonderful use of shades of green and of textures and shapes. It's a real feast for the eyes."*

Caitlin Atkinson
Caitlin shoots an LA garden by design studio Terremoto, page 88. *"The art of garden making embodied in Terremoto's planned wildness, uncoiling from the post-modern house, is pure magic."*

Britt Willoughby Dyer
Britt photographs a beautifully tended Somerset garden, page 50. *"A garden of two halves, cleverly combining formality and informality. A joy to observe and capture."*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Subscription enquiries and back issues

UK 03330 162114
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buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, britsubs.com/garden
UK/REST OF THE WORLD *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 3320,
3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

Advertising enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

Editorial enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8622 gardens@gardensillustrated.com
Gardens Illustrated, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
Eagle House, Bristol BS1 4ST.

Syndication & Licensing

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.
+44 (0)117 300 8787 emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

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MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL	
Editor	Lucy Bellamy
Contributing editors	James Basson, Fergus Garrett, Anna Pavord, Dan Pearson, Sarah Price
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Acting digital editor	Daniel Griffiths
Editorial and digital assistant	Katie Beale
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
Thanks this issue	Hilary Brown, Emily Males, Rosanna Morris
ADVERTISING	
Group advertising manager	Laura Jones 0117 300 8509 laura.jones@immediate.co.uk
Advertising manager	Heather Golden 0117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Business development manager	Sophie North 0117 300 8804 sophie.north@immediate.co.uk
Senior brand sales executive	Phil Wallington 0117 300 8807 phil.wallington@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Olivia King 0117 300 8809 olvia.king@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	James Beckett 0117 300 8526 james.beckett@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Ava Holdstock 0117 300 8224 ava.holdstock@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Mica Enwright 0117 300 8756 mica.enwright@immediate.co.uk
Advertising designer	Parvin Sepehr
INSERTS	
Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208
CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR	
Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Aimee Rhymer
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk
MANAGEMENT	
Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Managing director, specialist	Marie Davies
Head of brand marketing	Rosa Sherwood
Publishing assistant	Lara Von Weber
SYNDICATION & LICENSING	
Director of licensing & syndication	Tim Hudson
PRODUCTION	
Production director	Sarah Powell
Group production manager	Louisa Molter
Production co-ordinator	Georgia Tolley

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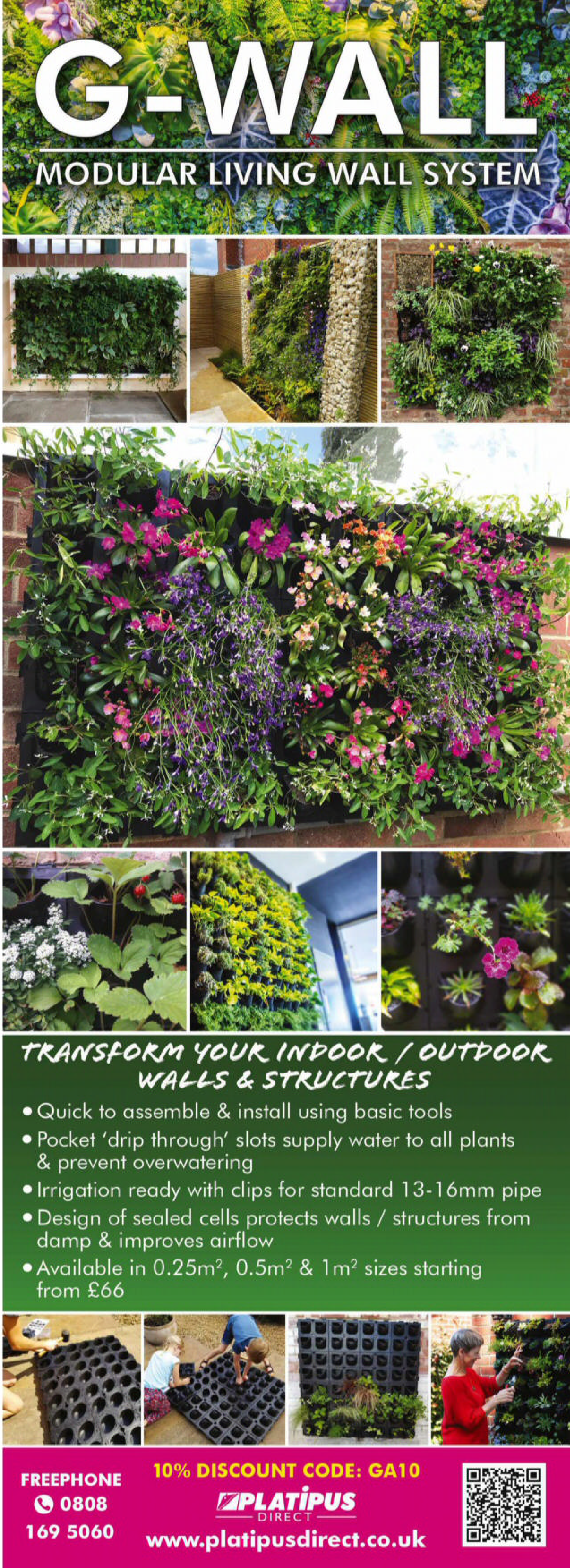

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READER HOLIDAYS 2021/2022

Gardens Illustrated *joins with some of the best names in contemporary gardening to open up a world of exciting, inspiring and influential international gardens. Discover how culture and climate inform how we view our gardens today*

South Wood Farm, Devon.

JASON INGRAM

27-30 September 2021

West Country Kitchen Gardens

Explore a selection of the very best kitchen gardens in the South West with host Sarah Wain, who transformed the kitchen garden at West Dean. We'll learn plot-to-plate methods at Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage and at The Pig at Combe, visit the Arne Maynard-designed potager garden at South Wood Farm, find out more about no-dig gardening at Charles Dowding's own no-dig garden and get a glimpse of estate gardening at Edmondsham House. We'll also visit the wall garden at Deans Court and The Newt, a boutique hotel with gardens, designed by Patrice Taravell.

Price £2,595 per person (single supplement applies).
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Website boxwoodtours.co.uk

Le Jardin Secret, Marrakech.

CLAIRE TAKACS

10-15 March 2022

Gardens of Marrakech and Taroudant

LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING

This special Moroccan garden tour offers a unique selection of 21st-century, mostly private, gardens designed by some of our best-known designers. Tom Stuart-Smith will join the group for two days to guide you through his own creation Le Jardin Secret in the heart of Marrakech, while in Taroudant, we visit a series of remarkable gardens designed by renowned French designers Eric Ossart and Arnaud Mauriéres. The tour also visits the Yves Saint Laurent gardens of Jardin Majorelle and Villa Oasis.

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Website boxwoodtours.co.uk

Château de Villandry.

RHETORICAL ANSWER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

30 May – 3 June 2022

The French Rose Garden

After the success of our tour of English rose gardens we're now crossing the Channel to learn more about the French rose. Once again rosarian Michael Marriott will be leading the tour and offering expert insights to this much-loved genus, as well as introducing us to some wonderful gardens, from Paris to the Loire. We'll visit the Château de Villandry, where the head gardener will explain how standard roses give rhythm and high notes to its potager, and view the wild rose collection at Parc du Manoir de la Javelière. We'll also visit a village overflowing with roses and other intimate, rose-filled private gardens.

Price £3,350 per person (single supplement applies).
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Tokachi Millennium Forest, Hokkaido.

SHOGO OIZUMI

15-29 September 2022

Japan's Hidden Garden Gems

Travel with Japanese garden expert Hannah Gardner on this far-reaching, two-week itinerary to discover some of Japan's most compelling gardens. Starting on the island of Hokkaido, the tour explores naturalistic, contemporary gardens including the Tokachi Millennium Forest, designed by internationally celebrated designer Dan Pearson. Here we'll meet with influential head gardener Midori Shintani for a tour and workshop. We'll also study the stunning autumn flora of the nearby mountains before transferring to Honshu, Japan's mainland, where we'll delve into the traditional gardens, culture and architecture of Tokyo, Kanazawa and Kyoto.

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Tel 0151 625 3425. **Email** info@distanthorizons.co.uk.
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COMING SOON

4-7 July 2022

Devon on the Wildside

Join Keith Wiley of Wildside on a tour of some exceptional gardens in this pocket of southwest England. As well as his own garden, the four-day tour takes in Arts and Crafts house and gardens Coleton Fishacre, Alasdair Forbes's Plaz Metaxu, the walled gardens at Mothecombe House, and two further gardens, one designed by Dan Pearson. Each night, guests will stay at Hotel Endsleigh.

27-30 September 2022

The Lakeland Collection

Tom Attwood, writer, nurseryman, garden designer and joint owner of Abi & Tom's Garden Plants, gives a tour of gardens in the Lake District. The group will visit the formal gardens of Holker Hall, Levens Hall, with its topiary, Dan Pearson's new project at Lowther Castle, the private garden of Arabella Lennox-Boyd, and more. Accommodation is at The Lakeside Hotel on Windermere.

For more details of itineraries and tour costs, or to book, contact Boxwood Tours.
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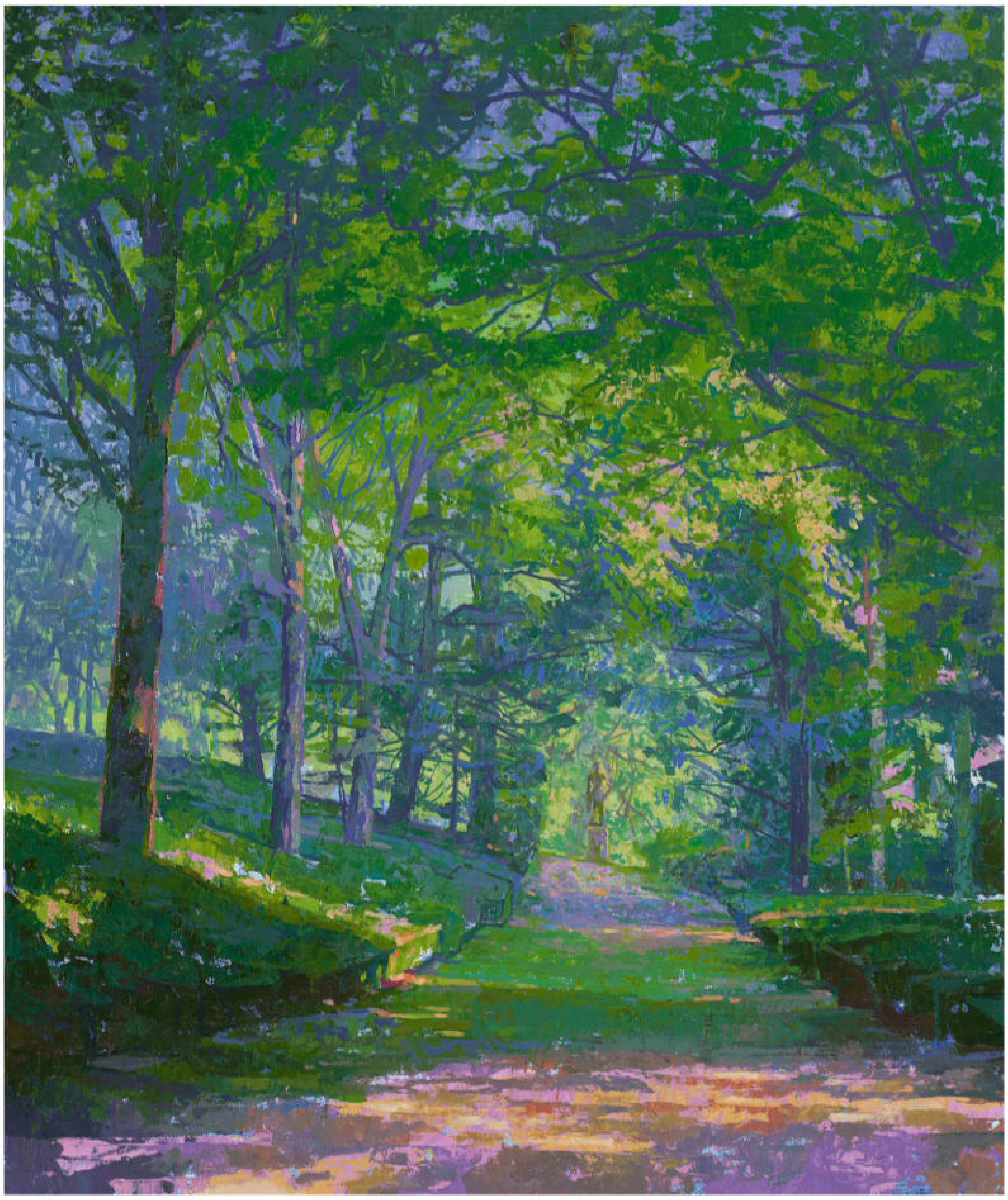
DIG IN

What's happening, what's in flower and what to buy this month



FRANCIS HAMEL

Deeper connections

Ask a group of garden designers to name their favourite garden, and there is one name you will hear time and time again: Rousham. Designed in the 18th century by William Kent, the Oxfordshire garden has changed little since Kent's day, and remains hugely influential. For the past 25 years the artist Francis Hamel has lived in a cottage within its grounds and paints in a studio just a short walk from his front door. During lockdown he had the gardens largely to himself and turned the order to stay at home into an opportunity to capture their magical, empty beauty on canvas. His collection of paintings from that time, including *The Statue of Apollo* depicting Rousham's famous Elm Walk in dappled light (above), will feature in a new exhibition that opens later this autumn at Rousham's Kent Pavilion (1-6 October), before moving to the John Martin Gallery in London, from 18 October to 12 November. **francishamel.com**

News

COMPILED BY **KATIE BEALE**

Newborn

Harkness Roses has launched a new rose 'The Lion' to mark the 90th birthday of actress Virgina McKenna, and to recognise her work as a wildlife campaigner. Also known as the Born Free Rose, 'The Lion' is both a salute to McKenna's 1969 film Born Free, *and to the animal conservation charity she and her late husband, the actor Bill Travers, set up in its name, with £2.50 from each sale of 'The Lion' donated to the Born Free Foundation. The floribunda shrub rose has vibrant orange blooms in tones that evoke the skies of the Kenyan savannah and a strong perfume. Available now as a pot rose for £15.99, or from autumn as a bareroot rose for £13.99 from* **roses.co.uk**

A flair for floristry

Constance Spry was one of the most influential British florists of the 20th century, famed for her seasonal and natural displays. This summer the Garden Museum is exploring her unconventional life and ground-breaking approach to the art of flowers in a new exhibition *Constance Spry and the Fashion for Flowers*. To celebrate the Garden Museum wants us all to try our hand at creating a Spry-inspired floral arrangement, with a year's subscription to *Gardens Illustrated* as a prize for the best images shared on Instagram. To enter, simply post your image with the hashtag #SpryStyle and tag in @gardenmuseum before the exhibition closes on 26 September. You'll find more information on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and more about the exhibition at **gardenmuseum.org.uk**

CHARD LEAVES IN A VASE ARRANGEMENT BY CONSTANCE SPRY, PHOTO REGINALD MALBY, C.1935; CONSTANCE SPRY WORKING IN HER GREENHOUSE, C.1942, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN; BUST WITH A NECKLACE OF LILIES BY CONSTANCE SPRY, C.1935, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN / RHS LINDLEY COLLECTIONS

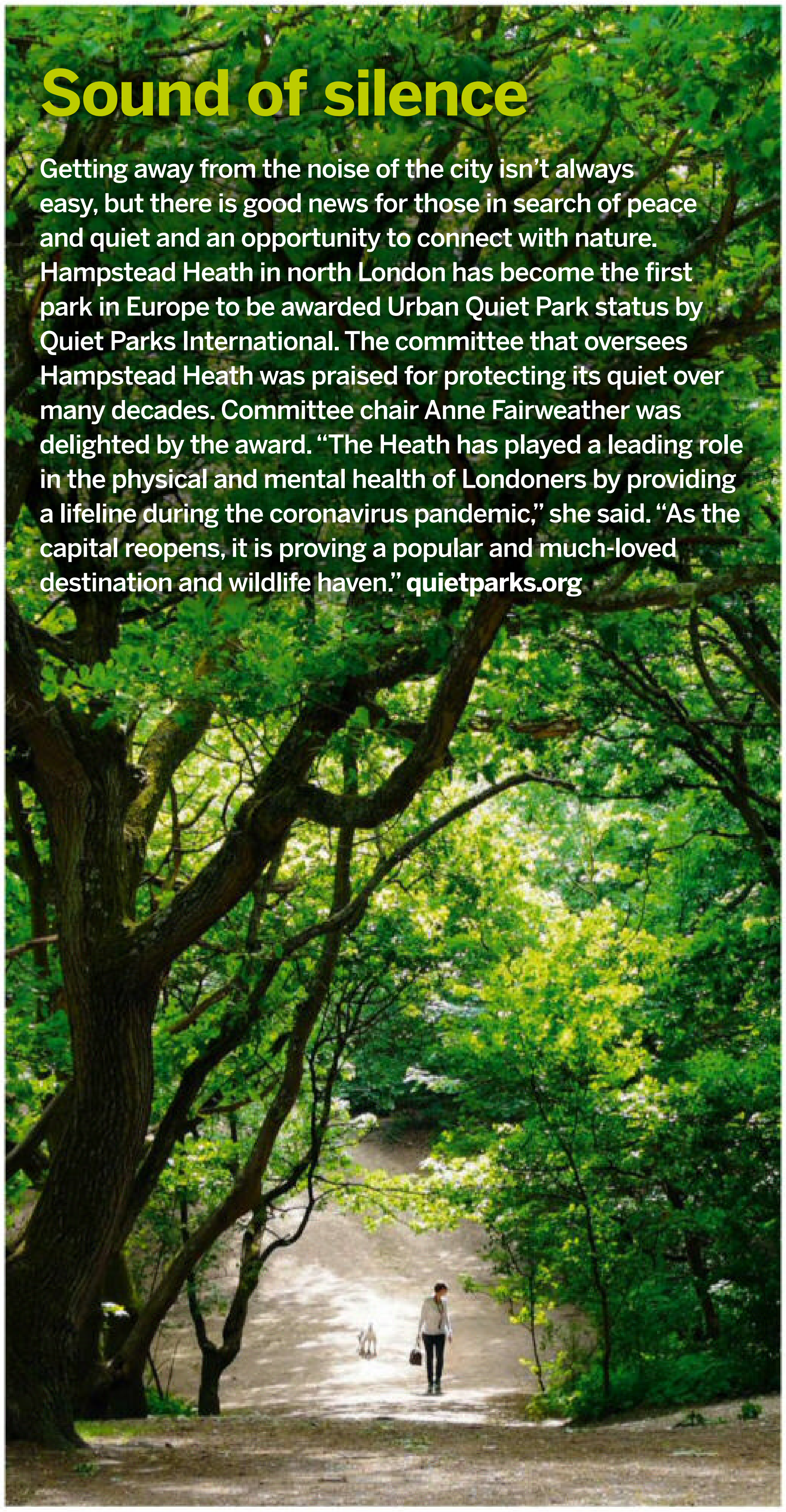
RICHARD CUMMINS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

RESCUE PUPPY

Puppy by the American artist Jeff Koons has been a welcome attraction at the Guggenheim Bilbao since the museum opened in 1997. Covered in around 38,000 live plants, which are replaced twice a year, the 12m-tall west highland terrier relies on an irrigation system that after 24 years is leaking and needs replacing, along with parts of the statue's steel structure. A crowdfunding campaign hopes to raise €100,000 to allow restoration work to begin in late September. **davidaapuppy.guggenheim-bilbao.eus**

CRAFTY CELEBRATION

Next month Beautiful & Useful, the boutique craft fair that brings together some of the UK's best designer-makers, is moving from its city home at the Garden Museum to the very lovely surroundings of the Sussex Prairie Garden just north of Brighton. It's a chance to find a perfect gift with an eclectic line-up that includes serene vases and tableware from Pippi & Me Ceramics, colourful plant hangers from Cocoon & Me, stylish leatherware from Sarus and jeweller Laura Baxter's botanically inspired pendants, earrings and rings. 18-19 September, 10am-5pm. Tickets cost £10 and RHS members receive a 20 per cent discount. **beautiful-useful.co.uk**

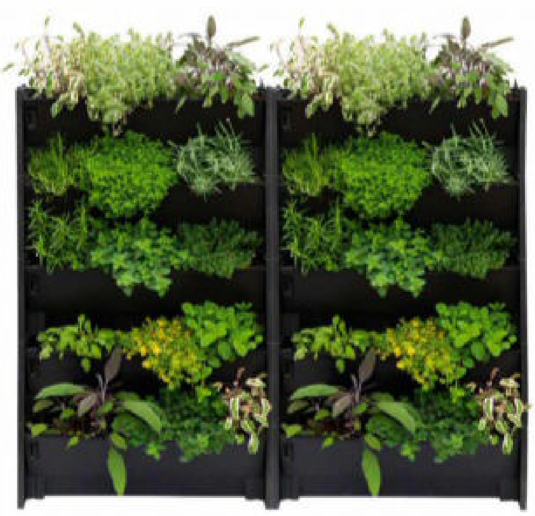


Sound of silence

Getting away from the noise of the city isn't always easy, but there is good news for those in search of peace and quiet and an opportunity to connect with nature. Hampstead Heath in north London has become the first park in Europe to be awarded Urban Quiet Park status by Quiet Parks International. The committee that oversees Hampstead Heath was praised for protecting its quiet over many decades. Committee chair Anne Fairweather was delighted by the award. "The Heath has played a leading role in the physical and mental health of Londoners by providing a lifeline during the coronavirus pandemic," she said. "As the capital reopens, it is proving a popular and much-loved destination and wildlife haven." **quietparks.org**

RICHARD BARNES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

3 FOR THE GARDEN… *VERTICAL PLANTERS*



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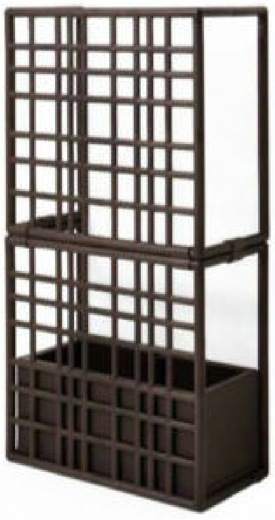
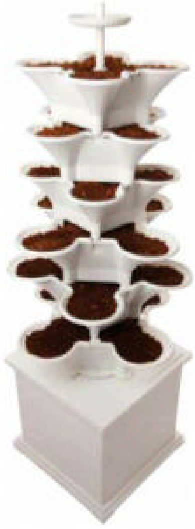


TROUGH AND TRELLIS
Nardi Eco Wall Planter, Medium, grey, 1.4m x 70.3cm, £169, MADE, 0344 257 1888, made.com



SMART IRRIGATION
Acqua Garden Self-Watering Vertical Growing System, 1.5m x 50cm, £399.99, Primrose, 0118 903 5210, primrose.co.uk

DIARY

COMPILED BY KATIE BEALE, EMILY MALES AND ANNIE GATTI

❶ Displays Decoded
Learn more about the symbiotic relationship of plants and insects at this innovative, multi-sensory exhibition at the University of Bristol Botanic Garden, which takes inspiration from several sources, including 17th-century Dutch flower paintings and the latest scientific research. The Holmes, Stoke Park Road, Bristol BS9 1JG. Until 30 September, 10am-4.30pm. £5. Tel 0117 428 2041. botanic-garden.bristol.ac.uk

❷ Highgrove Garden Tour
Enjoy a guided tour through HRH The Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire garden, and get an insight into its history and design inspiration. 23-31 August, 10am-4pm. £29.50. Highgrove House, Doughton, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QT. highgrovegardens.com

❸ Helmsley Walled Garden Open Day
Take the opportunity to visit the five-acre Helmsley Walled Garden in North Yorkshire on its National Garden Scheme evening opening. The garden has more than 100 apple cultivars, a medicinal herb garden, a white garden and kitchen garden. 26 August, 6pm-8.30pm. £25. Cleveland Way, Helmsley, North Yorkshire YO62 5AH. ngs.org.uk

❹ Floral Art Photography Workshop
Join professional photographer Steve Gosling for a creative and artistic approach to plant and flower photography. Attendees will need cameras and lenses. 27 August, 10am-4pm. £96. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

❺ Cornish Dahlia Society 40th Annual Show
Experience the vibrant colours of these late-summer darlings at The Lost Gardens of Heligan, with dahlia exhibitors travelling from all over the UK to display their prize-winning blooms. Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6EN. 28-30 August, 10am-6pm. facebook.com/cornishdahliasociety

❻ Seeing the Invisible
Enter the world of augmented reality for an international exhibition of contemporary art that is taking place simultaneously in botanic gardens around the world. In the UK it premieres at the Eden Project, with virtual artworks by renowned artists, including Ai Weiwei and Isaac Julien, that you can view within the garden setting using an app on your smartphone or tablet. September 2021 to August 2022. See website for booking details. Bodelva, Cornwall PL24 2SG. Tel 01726 811972, edenproject.com

❼ Garden Tour at Bowcliffe Hall
Explore the gardens at Bowcliffe Hall, Yorkshire, in the company of garden designer Alistair Baldwin and horticulturist Dean Bolton-Grant of the Northern School of Gardening. 1 September, 11.30am-3pm. £85. Bramham, Wetherby, Yorkshire LS23 6LP. Tel 01423 601009, thenorthernschoolofgardening.com

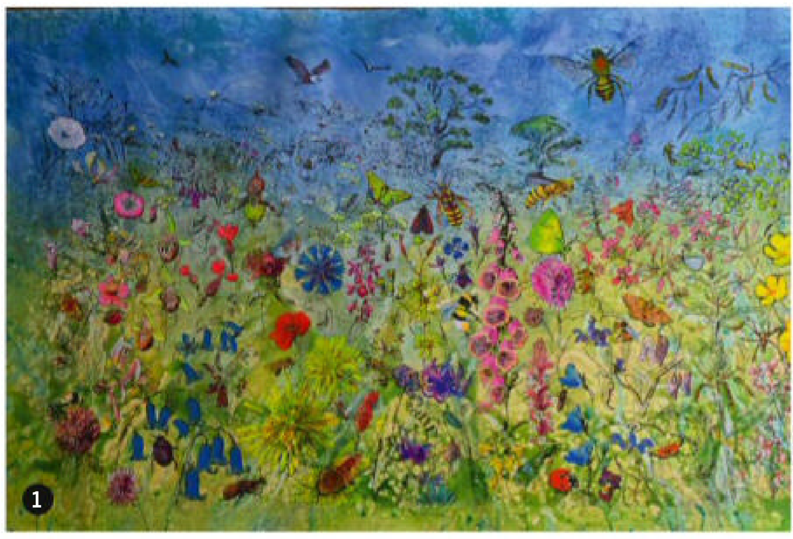
❽ Newark Garden Show 2021
Enjoy browsing a variety of plant nursery displays, craft stalls and artisan food and drink stands at the Newark Garden Show 2021. Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY. 3-5 September. £5.50. Tel 0333 242 7912. newarkgardenshow.co.uk

❾ Rare Plant Fair at Adwell House
Find a wide variety of perennials, shrubs and trees, bulbs and exotic plants in the gardens of the Adwell Estate. 5 September, 11am-4pm. £6.50. Tickets must be booked in advance. Adwell House, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 7DQ. growingevents.co.uk

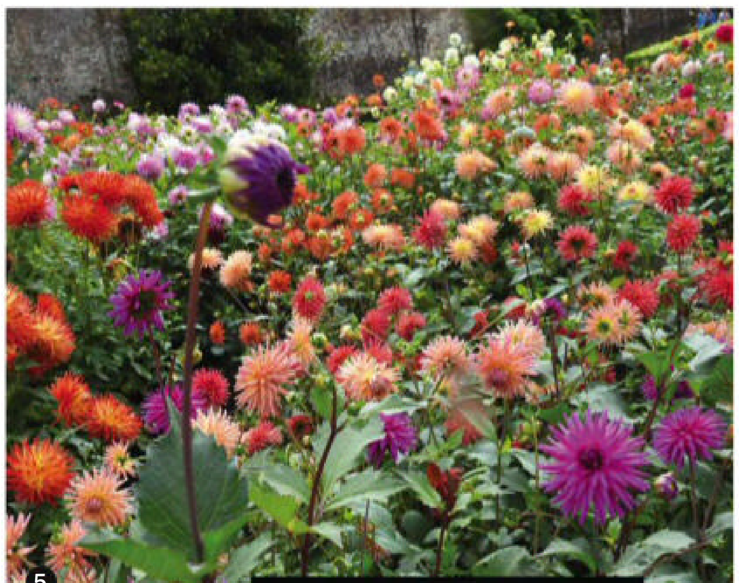
❿ RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021
Don't miss the chance to see some late summer show gardens and flowers as the world's greatest flower show returns with its first ever September outing. 21-22 September RHS members only, 23-26 September, general public. From £83.75. London Gate, Royal Hospital Road, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR. theticketfactory.com/rhs

⓫ Horti:couture Conference
Book now for London College of Garden Design's conference Horti:couture, which will explore the relationship between gardens and fashion. At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and online. 9 October, 10am-5pm. £49. lcgd.org.uk/course/horticouture

All information is correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change.
Tickets for most events will be limited to ensure social distancing and must be booked in advance.
Please be sure to check all opening times and advice on any local travel restrictions before travelling.



ALEX HIRTZEL



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CHARLES JAMES, 'LA CORSELETTE', PARIS, 1937.

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COMPILED BY KATIE BEALE

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MAIN IMAGES PHILIP SOWELS

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1. Garden Hose, Caribbean kiss, 20m, £81.65, 020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk **2. Brussels Watering Can,** 1.8L, mint, £9.49, +31 (0)13 751 57 50, elho.com **3. Cane-line Drop Greenhouse,** £2,915, 100x51x162cm, 01892 544846, limemodernliving.co.uk **4. Everdure by Heston Blumenthal Gas BBQ with Stand,** mint, £599, 01200 421010, bbqworld.co.uk **5. Webster 3-Piece Rattan Hanging Basket Set,** £102.99, 0800 756 4744, wayfair.co.uk **6. Alhambra Planter,** black, 150x30x90cm, £280, 0808 164 1075, screenwithenvy.com **7. Dewdrop Nest Box M&W Bird,** £16.99, 0333 101 4456, maisonandwhite.com

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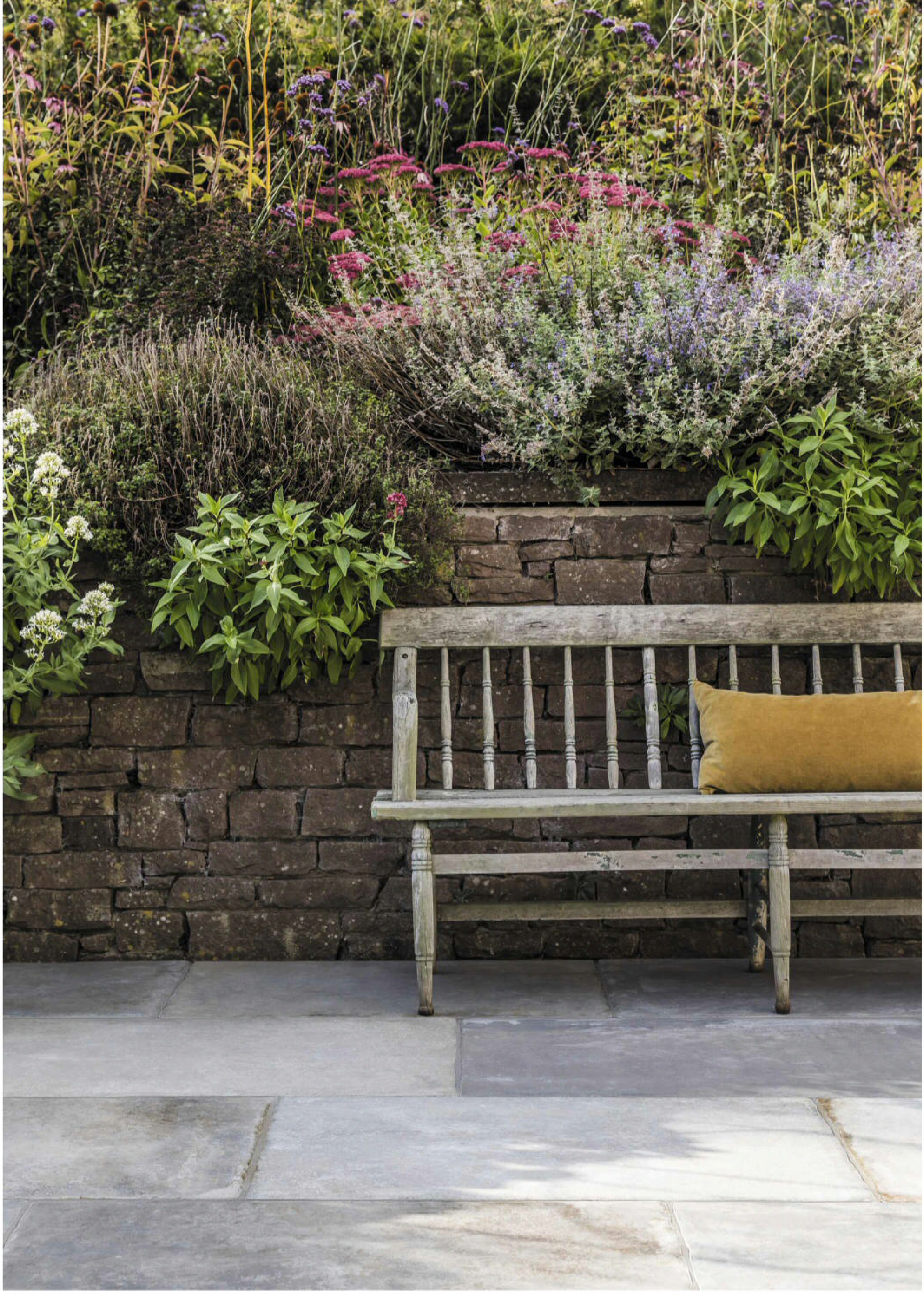
1. Snips in Leather Pouch, £19.95, large, 0345 092 0283, sarahraven.com **2. Fermob Balad Garden Stake,** Acapulco blue, £75, and **Balad Lamp,** £84, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk **3. Jara Terracotta Planter Stand,** 65x40x45cm, £69.95, 0333 240 0155, nkuku.com **4. Bistro Chair Outdoor Cushion,** lagoon blue, £25, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk **5. Moreton Slatted Storage Unit,** 91x73x40cm, £300, 01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk **6. Rusted Outdoor Pizza Oven,** 85x37x40cm, £540, 01276 451077, rowenandwren.co.uk **7. Fermob Bistro Folding Metal Chair,** laguna blue, £65 each, and **Fermob Bistro Foldable Table,** £182, 020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk



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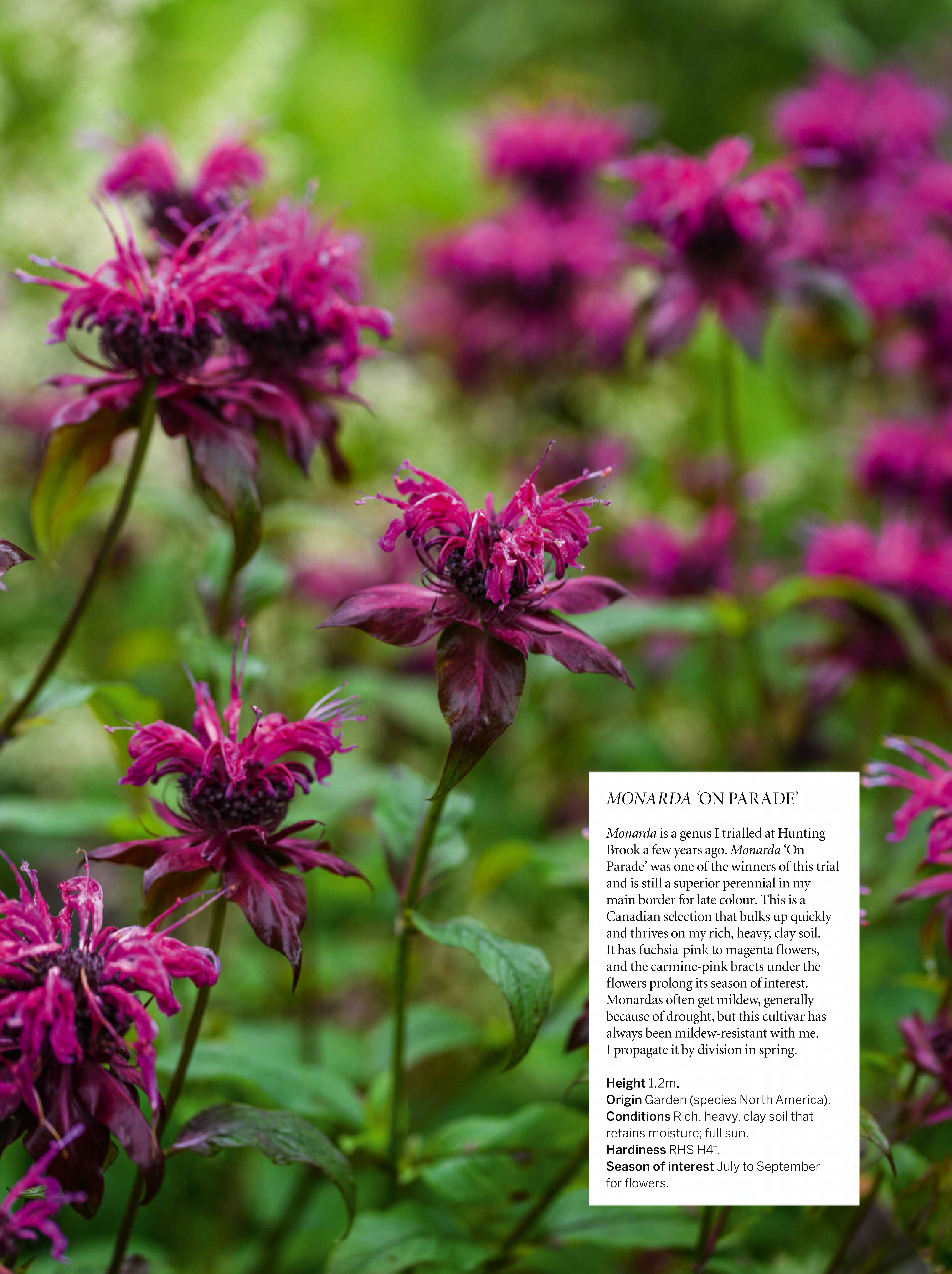
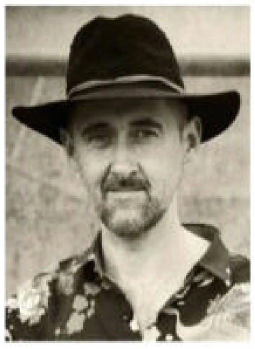


MONARDA 'ON PARADE'

Monarda is a genus I trialled at Hunting Brook a few years ago. *Monarda* 'On Parade' was one of the winners of this trial and is still a superior perennial in my main border for late colour. This is a Canadian selection that bulks up quickly and thrives on my rich, heavy, clay soil. It has fuchsia-pink to magenta flowers, and the carmine-pink bracts under the flowers prolong its season of interest. Monardas often get mildew, generally because of drought, but this cultivar has always been mildew-resistant with me. I propagate it by division in spring.

Height 1.2m.
Origin Garden (species North America).
Conditions Rich, heavy, clay soil that retains moisture; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4[†].
Season of interest July to September for flowers.



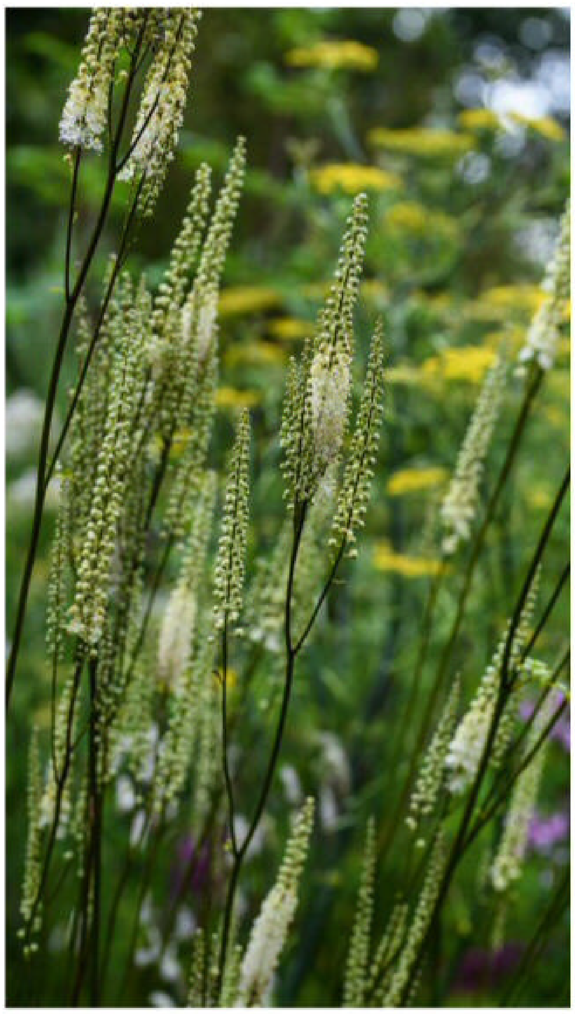
CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Jimi Blake is the owner and creator of Hunting Brook Gardens. **huntingbrook.com**

August plants

From palmate foliage to eye-catching perennials, Jimi's August selection favours architectural specimens and plants that flower late into the season

WORDS **JIMI BLAKE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**



ACTAEA CORDIFOLIA 'BLICKFANG'

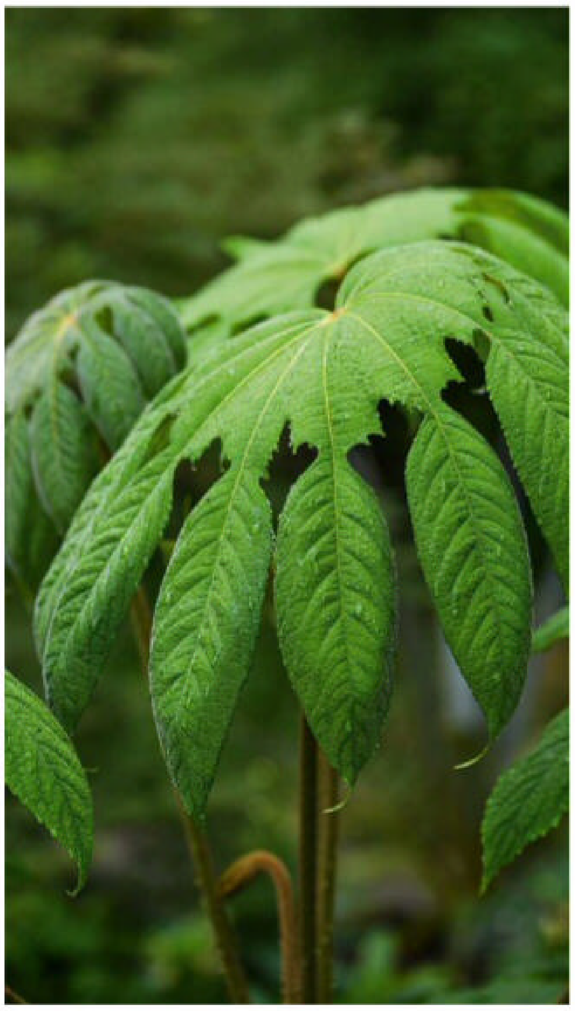
I first saw this *Actaea* growing in the stock beds in a field at De Hessenhof nursery in the Netherlands. I brought a few plants back to Hunting Brook where they have grown into large clumps; it is now one of my absolute favourite perennials. Its foliage is neat, with buds starting green and opening up to ivory-green over at least six weeks. I have it planted with purple fennel and a mixture of tropical foliage plants, which creates a spectacular display for the late summer and early autumn. I propagate it by division in spring.

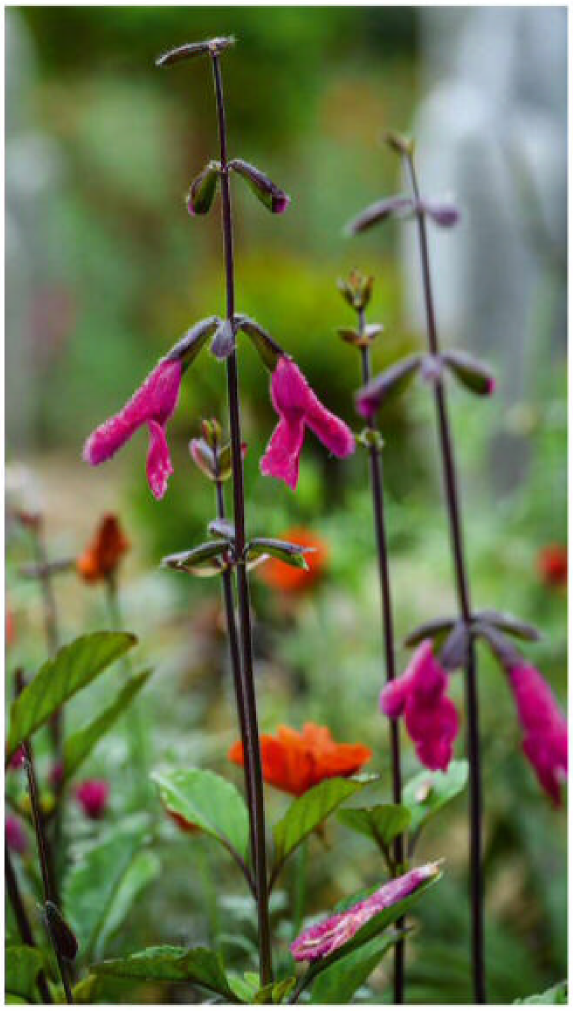
Height 2.4m.
Origin Garden (species North America).
Conditions Rich, moisture-retentive soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season of interest July to September.

BRASSAIOPSIS MITIS

Brassiopsis mitis is the absolute queen of foliage at Hunting Brook, and, with its spectacular, palmate leaves and vicious, spiny stems, it is the plant visitors ask about most often. It is native to areas of Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal and northern India where it grows in areas up to 2,200m in elevation. Shelter from wind is key as it can damage the leaves. I bring it into an unheated tunnel in early winter and move it into the house when it gets really cold. Once I manage to propagate it from cuttings, I will experiment leaving some outside over the winter, as I am told it's much hardier than I realise.

Height 1.8m.
Origin Bhutan, Sikkim and Nepal.
Conditions Sheltered area in full sun or dappled shade and well-drained soil.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest Year round for foliage.



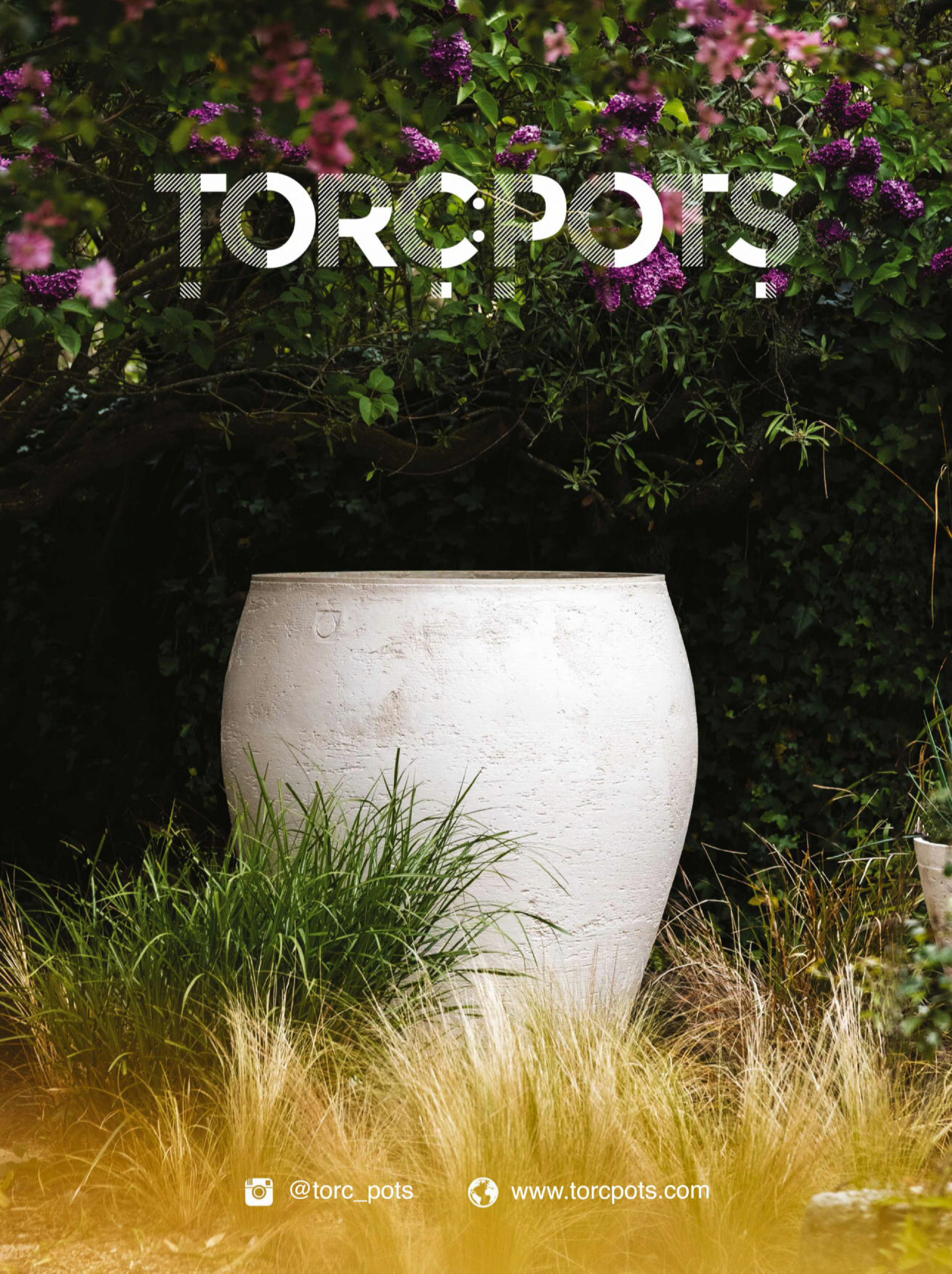


SALVIA BUCHANANII

This is one of my favourite salvias. It was first discovered in a garden in Mexico City in the 1950s but has never been seen growing in the wild. It has large, velvety, bright-pink, pendulous flowers throughout the summer and shiny, dark-green foliage. It is low-growing, so plant it at the edge of a border or in a pot. I cut back the previous year's growth in spring to keep it looking tidy. I grew it in my sand garden last year where it was happy with no competition from other plants, but it looks best in pots displayed on one of our outdoor dining tables where I can see its spectacular flowers. AGM*.

Height 50cm.
Origin Mexico.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H2.
Season of interest June to September for flowers.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.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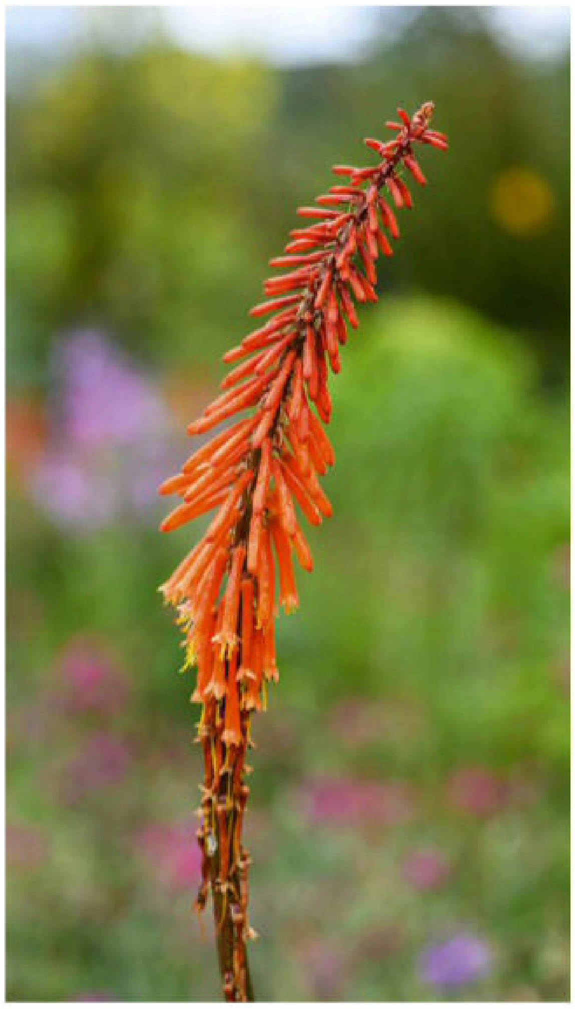


KNIPHOFIA 'SHINY BEAST'

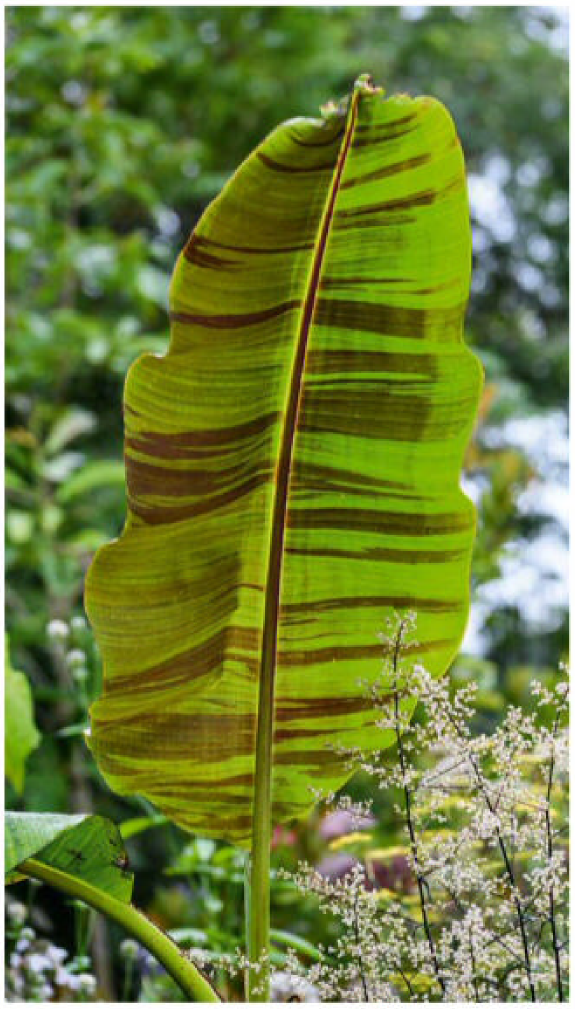
I started to collect kniphofias recently and weave them through my border in what I call Fred's Garden. The spires lead the eye along from one end of the border to the other. This kniphofia is an introduction from Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson at Far Reaches Farm in the Pacific Northwest region of the USA. They trialled this plant for ten years before starting to sell it, so it's a definite winner. It has unusually shiny, deep-orange flowers and narrow, grass-like foliage, which makes it unique among kniphofias. I propagate it by division in spring.

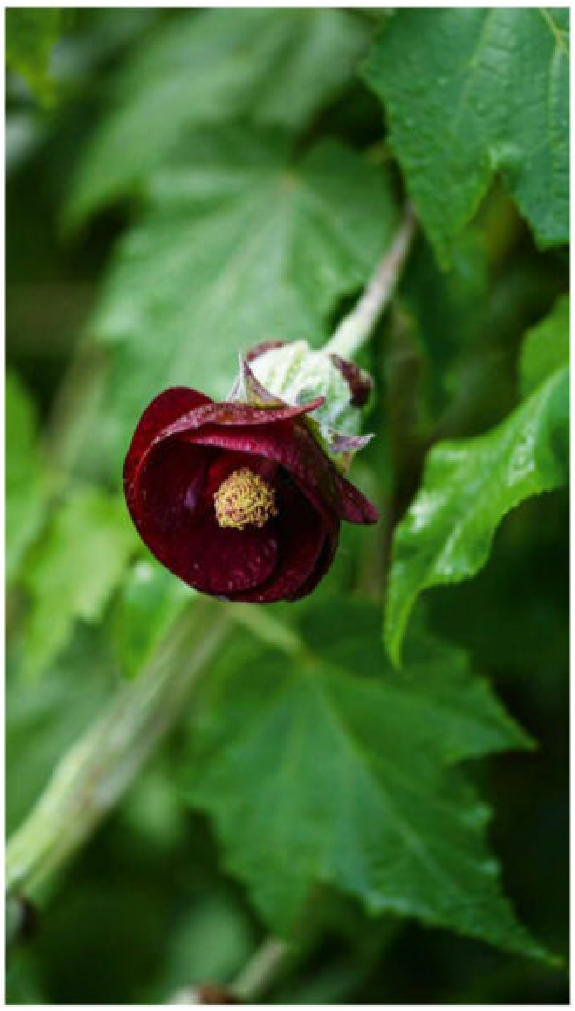
Height 45cm.
Origin Garden (species Pacific Northwest, USA).
Conditions Rich, moisture-retentive soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H5.
Season of interest July to August.

MUSA SIKKIMENSIS 'RED TIGER'

This dramatic *Musa* cultivar has spectacular, green leaves with maroon variegation and is a key plant in my exotic borders in summer. I feed it with lots of farmyard manure when planting and with liquid seaweed throughout the summer. I propagate *Musa* by seed in spring from seed soaked for at least 24 hours and placed on 30°C bottom heat until germination. I tried sowing seeds last autumn, and although they germinated, the seedlings died within a few weeks, so stick to spring sowing. I have propagated this particular *Musa* by division.

Height 2.5m.
Origin Garden (species Sikkim, India).
Conditions Rich, moisture-retentive soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H2.
Season of interest Summer.





PHYMOSIA UMBELLATA

A few years ago, a friend gave me a rooted cutting of this spectacular Mexican tree mallow. I was surprised to find that it is hardy with me, surviving even last winter's dreadful weather. The dark-maroon flowers are similar to those of *Abutilon*, and it flowers throughout summer into autumn. The greyish-green, velvety leaves are very attractive during the summer and it generally becomes deciduous in winter. I propagate it by cuttings taken during the summer in pure sand. I am always surprised at the number of Mexican natives that are hardy with me at 300m elevation in County Wicklow.

Height 3m.
Origin Mexico.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest June to September for flowers and foliage.

Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best

Be sure to check opening times and travel restrictions. Many garden visits will need to be pre-booked.

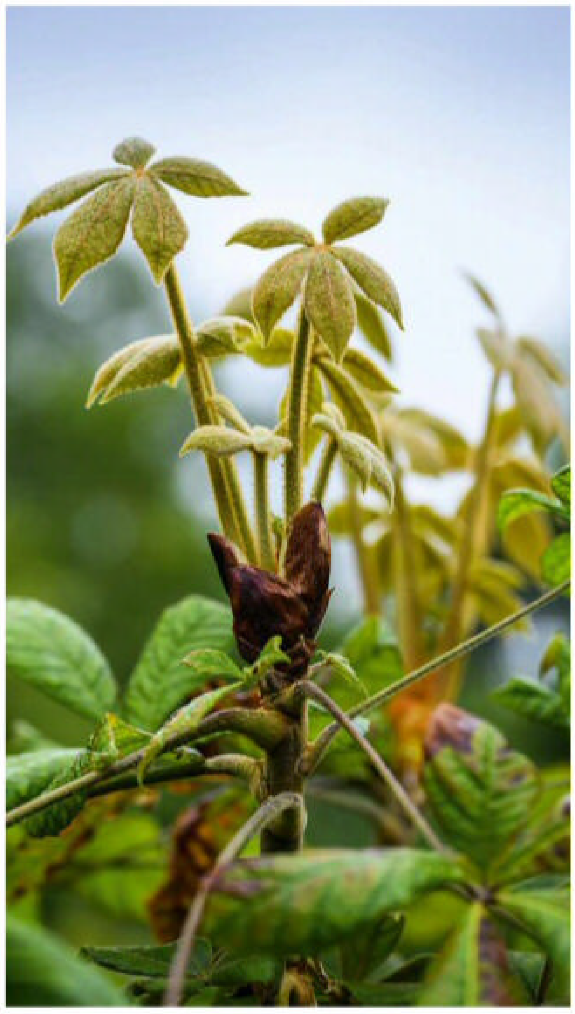
Cluain na dTor Seaside Gardens and Nursery is situated in the wilds of Donegal in northwest Ireland. Seamus O'Donnell is the owner and one of the most knowledgeable plantspeople in the country with an incredible eye for a good plant. The garden is experimental and contains an eclectic mix of plants, including a wonderful tropical garden, and extensive meadows with perennials and shrubs (its name translates as meadow of the shrubs), but planted in a unique and very creative way. The nursery specialises in plants that thrive in coastal locations and are grown by Seamus himself. Ballyconnell, Falcarragh, Co Donegal, Ireland F92 H5W8. Tel +353 (0)87 626 7599, seasideplants.eu.

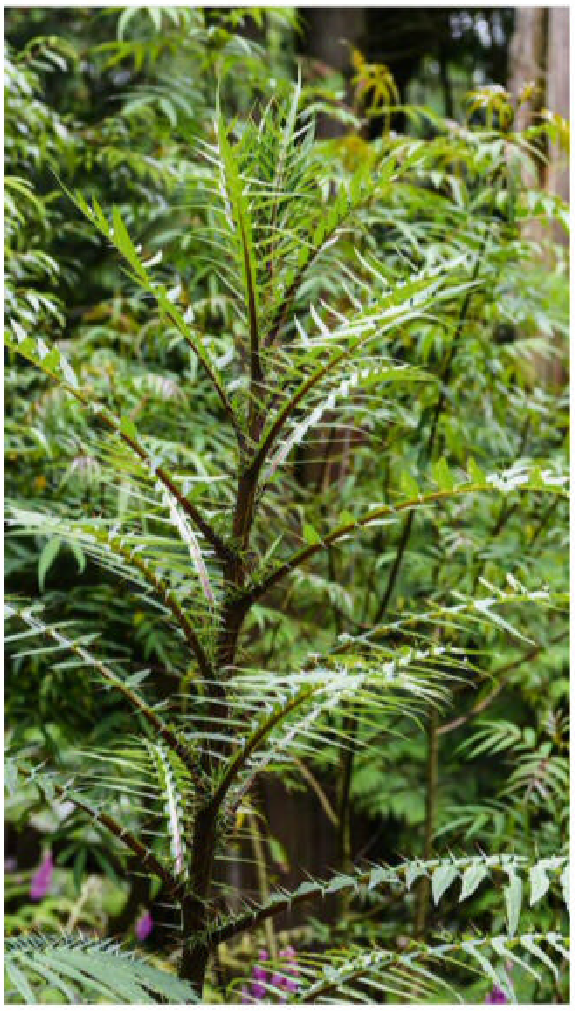
My sister **June Blake's Garden** has that perfect combination of a superb perennial collection and creative garden design. Many visit in April, when June runs her A Month of Tulips event, and the garden is a tapestry of tulips, but it's July and August when it is really at its best. This is when the linear beds are overflowing with vibrant combinations. June has a large selection of plants for sale, all propagated from the garden. When you come to visit Hunting Brook, don't miss the small detour to June's; it's located just across the fields in an old farmyard, a five-minute drive away. Tinode, Blessington, Co Wicklow, Ireland W91 EC90. Tel +353 (0)87 277 0399, juneblake.ie ▷

OREOPANAX ECHINOPS

This is a spectacular species in the Araliaceae family, of which I have a large collection. It has large, palmate leaves, and the new, velvety, golden foliage is to die for. It flowers late in the season, like most of the family, with racemes of white flowers. Unfortunately, the berries don't mature for me so I am unable to propagate this *Oreopanax* from seed. I had cuttings rooted in sand, but they dried out in my glasshouse in the spring and died. This plant is now threatened with habit loss in the wild due to deforestation to make way for agriculture.

Height 3m with me, but grows into a large tree in the wild.
Origin Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun and sheltered from strong winds.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest Year round.





CIRSIUM LIPSYI

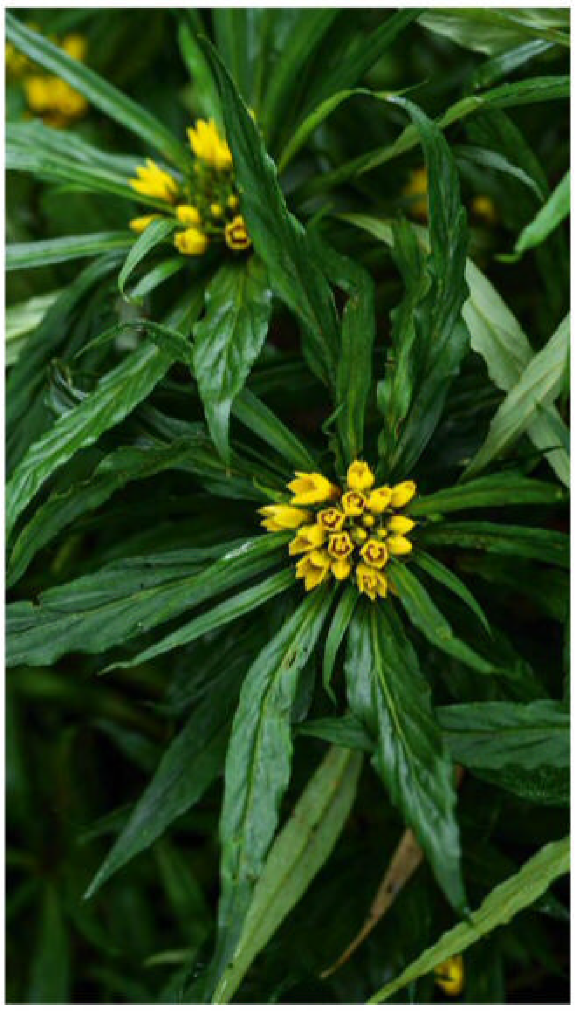
I am very partial to plants that look as though they could kill you if you fell against them. This *Cirsium* definitely falls into the category of vicious. It was originally collected by seed by plantsman Seamus O'Brien in Tibet and is now grown more widely. It's a gigantic, monocarpic, architectural thistle with spiky leaves, and grows up to three metres when flowering. The flowers are yellow and pendulous, and hang off the spiny leaves. I grow it from seed and always have one flowering each summer in the valley. Don't worry, local farmers, it's not an invasive species.

Height 3m.
Origin Tibet.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest Year round.

LYSIMACHIA PARIDIFORMIS VAR. *STENOPHYLLA*

This is not your typical *Lysimachia* but is one that grows in shade and flowers in late summer into autumn, when it's difficult to have any colour in a shade garden. It's a fairly new introduction that is just becoming available to buy. It has whorls of leaves around the stems and bright-yellow flowers growing out of rosettes of leaves, adding a pop of colour in the woodland garden. I remove all the previous year's leaves in spring to make way for the attractive, new foliage as you would do with a hellebore. I have propagated it successfully by cuttings and division.

Height 30cm.
Origin China.
Conditions Well-drained soil; dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest August to September.



▷ **Juniper Level Botanic Garden** is attached to Plant Delights Nursery, one of the best nurseries in the USA. It was created by plantsman Tony Avent and the hugely diverse plant collections number more than 28,000 taxa. I've had the pleasure of visiting a few times and will never forget the extraordinary plants and at the creative way in which they are planted. 9249 Sauls Road, Raleigh, NC 27603, USA. Tel +1 919 772 4794, jlbg.org

Gresgarth Hall Gardens is home to garden designer Arabella-Lennox Boyd and her husband Mark. I have visited the garden a few times and love it. My last visit was with 30 other gardeners on one of my garden tours. The garden is one of the most beautiful in the UK and has the perfect mix of good design and an amazing plant collection. Arabella has created one of the finest, private, woody plant collections in Europe. A visit to Gresgarth should be combined with a trip to Summerdale Garden and Nursery in nearby Lupton, where I bought an extensive collection of primulas. Gresgarth Hall, Caton, Lancaster LA2 9NB. Tel 01524 771838, arabellalennoxboyd.comgresgarth-hall

Tregrehan Garden in Cornwall is the home of plant hunter Tom Hudson and is one of my favourite gardens. It houses one of the most extensive, modern, woody plant collections in the world. Many of the plants have been discovered in the past 20 years and are endangered in the wild. Tom has an extensive collection of plants in the Araliaceae family, which inspired me to start a collection at Hunting Brook. The Tregrehan plant fairs, which usually take place in June and September, are some of the best in the UK. Tregrehan House, Par, Cornwall PL24 2SJ. Tel 01726 814389, tregrehangarden.uk

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If you've shown your plants enough care and attention, you'll be reaping the rewards this month, so between sowing late carrots and planting out cabbages, find time to make a tasty tomato tart

WORDS **AARON BERTELSEN** ILLUSTRATION **ALICE PATTULLO**

Assuming you are not on holiday, August is the perfect month to continue the good work you started in July. Keep sowing, and I guarantee you will thank me for it later. This is also the time to order seed, such as *Calendula officinalis* (pot marigold, a great companion plant for repelling whitefly from tomatoes and luring aphids away from beans) for sowing direct in early autumn, and to replant any rooted runners from your strawberries. Do it now, and they will have time to get established while the weather is still warm.

This is also the peak month for harvesting – another reason why I would find it hard to tear myself away from the garden at this time. The aim should always be to pick produce when it is at its peak. That's challenge number one. Challenge number two is to do something with all the produce while it's still in perfect condition. My solution to that is to get it all into the freezer as quickly as possible. I then come back to it later in the year, when there is less to do in the garden and I have more time for cooking and preserving.

What to sow

Carrots always figure on my list of seeds for August sowing. I find that by sowing them now, I can avoid much of the damage caused by carrot fly, the grubs of which will very often make a meal out of roots grown earlier in the season. Even so, I still add a layer of fleece or fine, insect-proof mesh to protect against any flies that might still be hanging around, and the extra shelter also encourages heavier crops. Just make sure that the plants don't become cramped under the covering as they grow.

As with most root crops, carrots do not like disturbance, so I sow direct, if possible into an area of the garden that has not had too much muck or compost dug into it – or into a pot. I like to use a tall pot, in order to give the roots space to grow and also as another line of defence against carrot flies, which tend to fly close to the ground. Water regularly, and thin out as the plants grow, but beware that the scent released by thinning is another thing that may attract any later generations of carrot fly. The thinnings will make a delicious addition to a salad.

Check apples
TO ORDER Calendula officinalis.
SOW CARROTS!

What to plant out

Good greens are at a premium in spring, and spring cabbage is one of the best. Plant out seedlings in August, once other crops have started to go over and have left you with some space in the garden. Spring cabbage will keep growing steadily right through the winter, and put on a spurt as the temperatures rise in early spring, delivering a crop of fresh goodness just when you need it most.

Spring cabbages love to grow in firm soil, so I tend to walk the area where I am going to plant them before they go in, as well as firming the soil well around the individual plants. Allow about 20cm between the seedlings, and water them in. Avoid growing them on the same patch of ground as last year to avoid club root (an infection of the roots of brassicas). I keep mine on a six-year rotation, like my potatoes and tomatoes, but do what your space will allow. Cover the seedlings with netting to see off the cabbage whites; leave it in place all winter and you'll have protection against the pigeons, too.

What to harvest

Although I have access to a greenhouse for growing tomatoes, I still love to grow them outside. There's nothing like the flavour – or smell – of a tomato that has been kissed directly by the sun. One cultivar that does well even in a lacklustre English summer is 'Crimson Crush', which keeps cropping until the first frosts. Water regularly to stop the fruit from splitting, and avoid splashing soil on to the leaves as it is the soil that carries blight. I reduce the risk by stripping off the lower leaves, and pinching out any side shoots between the leaf and the main stem. This helps increase air circulation and lets the sunlight in to ripen the fruit. I have recently found myself competing with badgers for my tomato crop. Companion planting with French marigolds helps, by disguising the scent of the fruit, as does sprinkling coffee grounds around the plants and picking the fruit before it gets too ripe. If all this sounds like too much hard work, I have just two words for you: tomato tart. One taste of this and it will all have been worthwhile.

You can find Aaron's recipe for tomato tart at **gardensillustrated.com/recipes**

Jobs for August

If you must go away, plan ahead. You are going to need help in the garden. And don't forget, it's not just about watering. Harvesting is equally important to keep plants productive and avoid food going to waste. Much better to have someone else enjoy it if you can't eat it yourself.

Leafy crops such as Swiss chard and kale will benefit from a thorough clean-up. Weed around them, and get rid of any yellowing or damaged leaves. This will help ensure good air circulation, making the crops less vulnerable to white fly and moulds. It also enables water to get closer to the stem and the roots, rather than being trapped and then running off the leaves into the surrounding soil.

Early apples will be starting to ripen now. Gently turn the fruit in your hand, and if the stem comes away from the branch, the apple is ready to harvest.

If you have not taken my advice and are growing tomatoes other than the reliably blight-resistant 'Crimson Crush', this is a good time to spray. Look for an organic copper spray, or one containing baking soda (or of course make your own).

Lift any remaining maincrop potatoes. Choose a warm, sunny day and leave the potatoes on top of the soil to give the skins a chance to dry out fully before you store them. This way they will be much less likely to rot.

Sow fennel under glass. I find that sown now, fennel is much less likely to dry out and is not nearly so prone to bolting.

> “Looking forward to doing more courses. Highly recommend if like me, you want to learn from some very inspirational leaders in their field.
>
> - Anthony

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> I'd love to start my own nursery so that I can run it peat, plastic and pesticide-free

GARDENING TALENT

ELLIE PAY

As senior propagator for the National Trust's Plant Conservation Centre and co-creator of the Young Propagators Society, Ellie is committed to advancing sustainable horticulture

PORTRAIT JASON INGRAM

First plant love When I first moved to the UK from Australia I lived next to a river surrounded by nettles and after climbing through them so many times I developed an immunity to their sting. I always thought that was really cool.

Horticultural hero As a female gardener who works alongside nature rather than trying to control it, Alys Fowler is a great role model.

Favourite landscape and garden Great Dixter and its surrounding landscape. I completed my nursery traineeship at Great Dixter, and it was a dream come true to live and work there. From drinking coffee in the sunken garden to watching the sunset from the sheep field, every nook and cranny is a magical place that has really inspired me.

Most worthwhile tip for every gardener Create your own opinions on practices. As a student, at every new place I worked, I was taught an opposing method to the last one, so I had to relearn everything. I soon realised that I could combine what I'd learned from them all with my own experiences to form my own opinion.

Favourite 'weed' you're happy to have in your garden As long as it's not bindweed, mare's tail or bittercress, I tend to keep most weeds. I might weed out something if I have a plant to replace it, but saying that, grass has no business being in the borders.

Guiding principles Sharing information, being understanding (as none of us knows everything!) and working determinedly towards sustainability.

The future of horticulture The Young Propagators Society, of which I'm co-creator, sets out what I hope to be the future of horticulture: an accessible and sustainable industry where people share ideas, are open to new practices and encourage each other along the way.

Social media fix I really love the podcast *In Defense of Plants* and the plant ecology YouTube channel *Crime Pays but Botany Doesn't*. On Instagram houseplant grower @harriets.plants is also great because you can see how enthusiastic she is about growing her plants.

What's the next big project you'll be tackling in the garden? I've just started my new job as senior propagator for the National Trust's Plant Conservation Centre, so I will be learning how it all works here, which is super-exciting.

Do you have a particular aim in your gardening career? To start my own nursery so that I can run it peat-, plastic- and pesticide-free – and train students.

Contact hello@youngpropsoc.com; youngpropsoc.com

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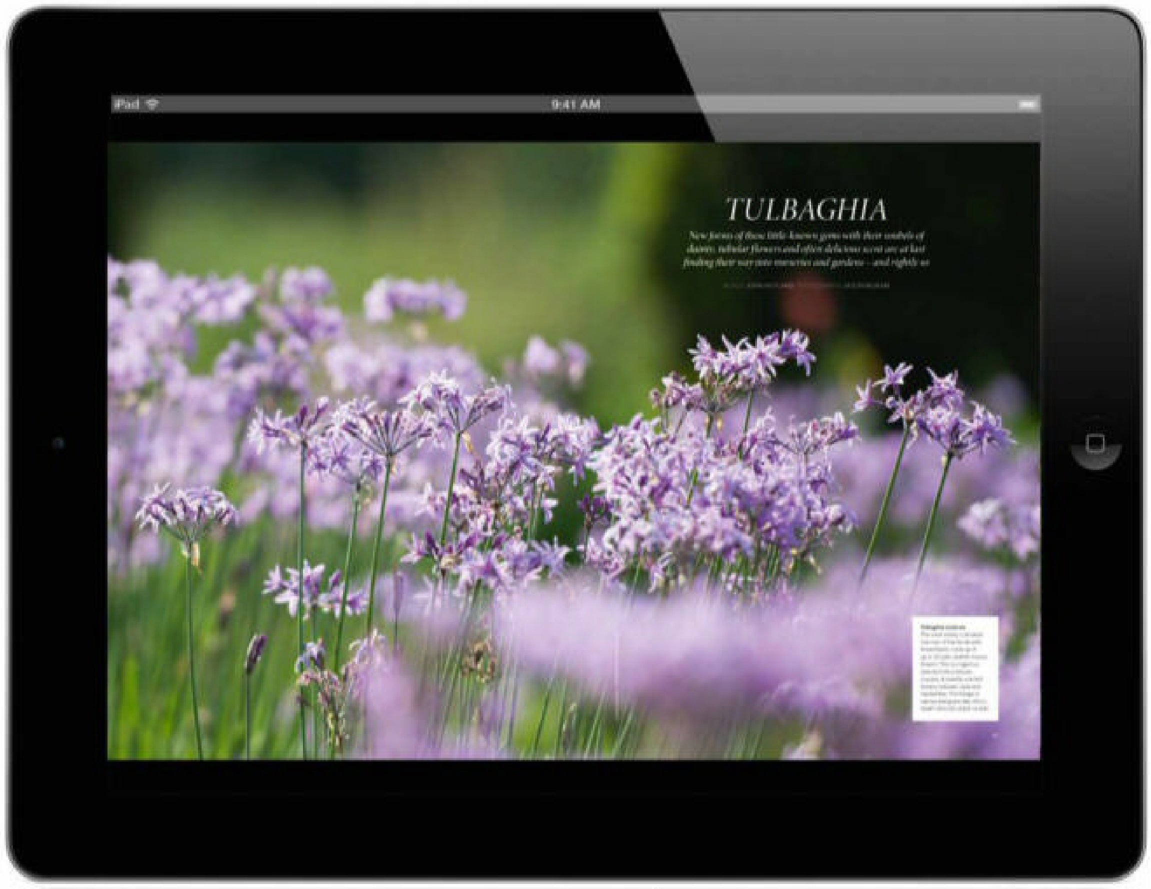
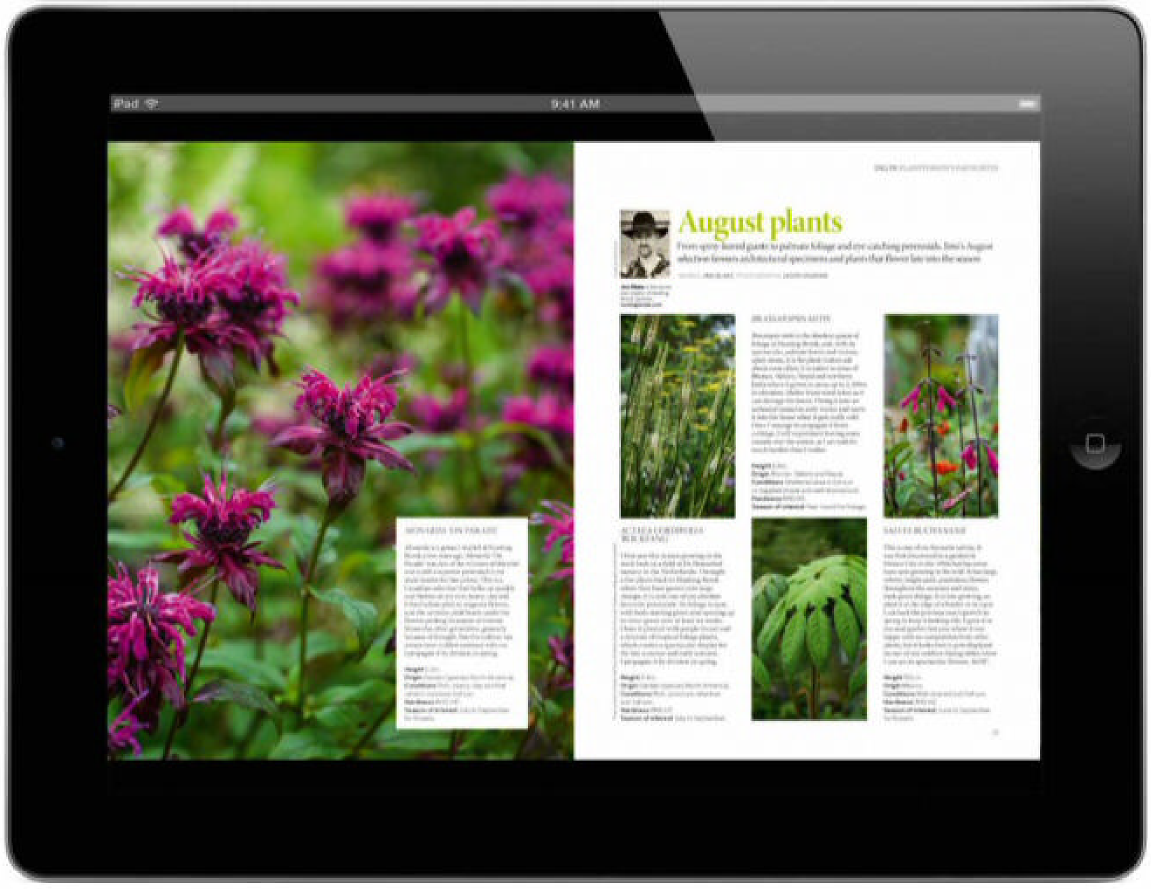


Mini meadow



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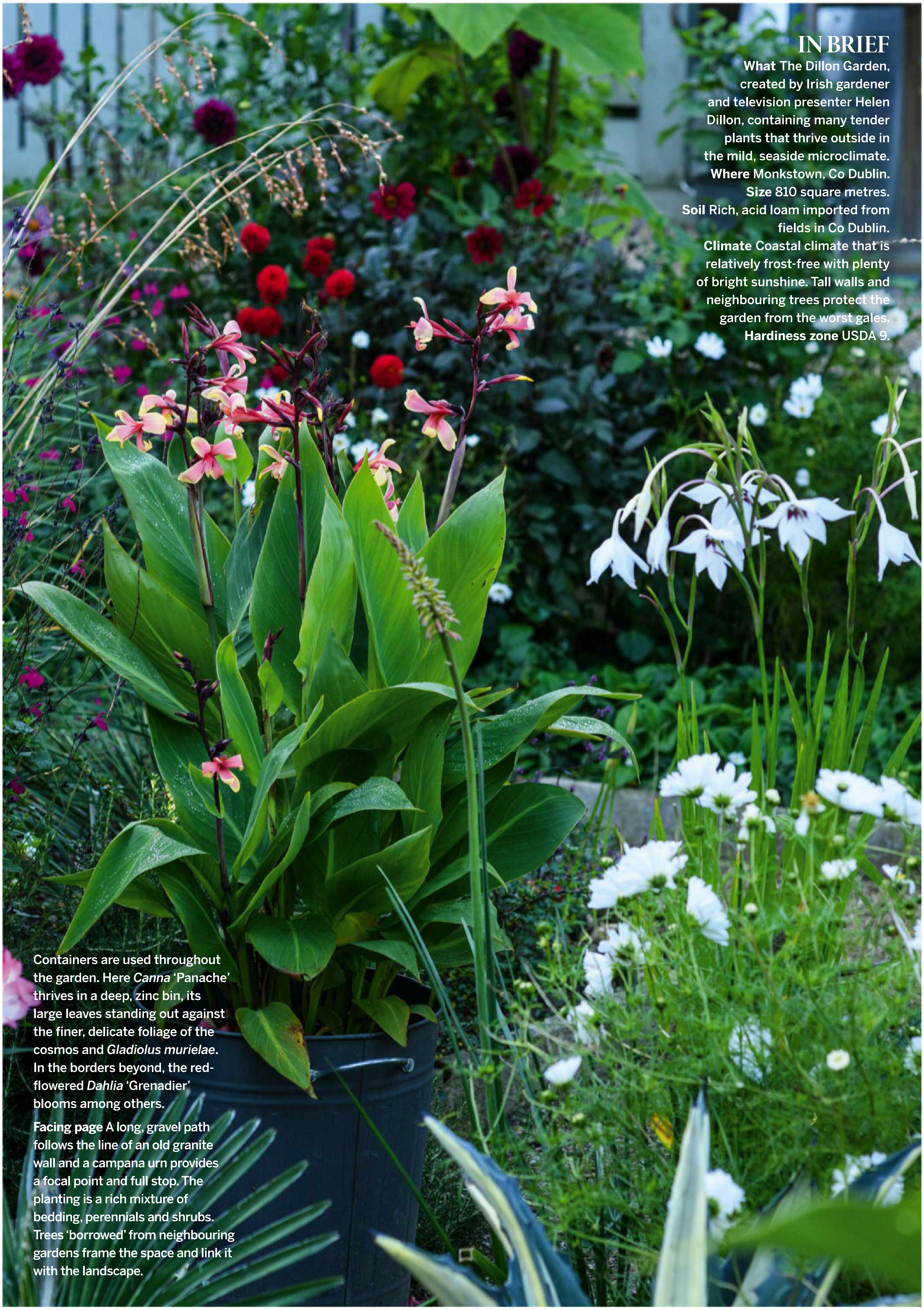
A gardener's garden

Helen Dillon's dazzling Dublin plot is packed with rare and unusual specimens in masterful juxtaposition with more familiar species, all grown with the utmost skill and dedication

WORDS **MATTHEW REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

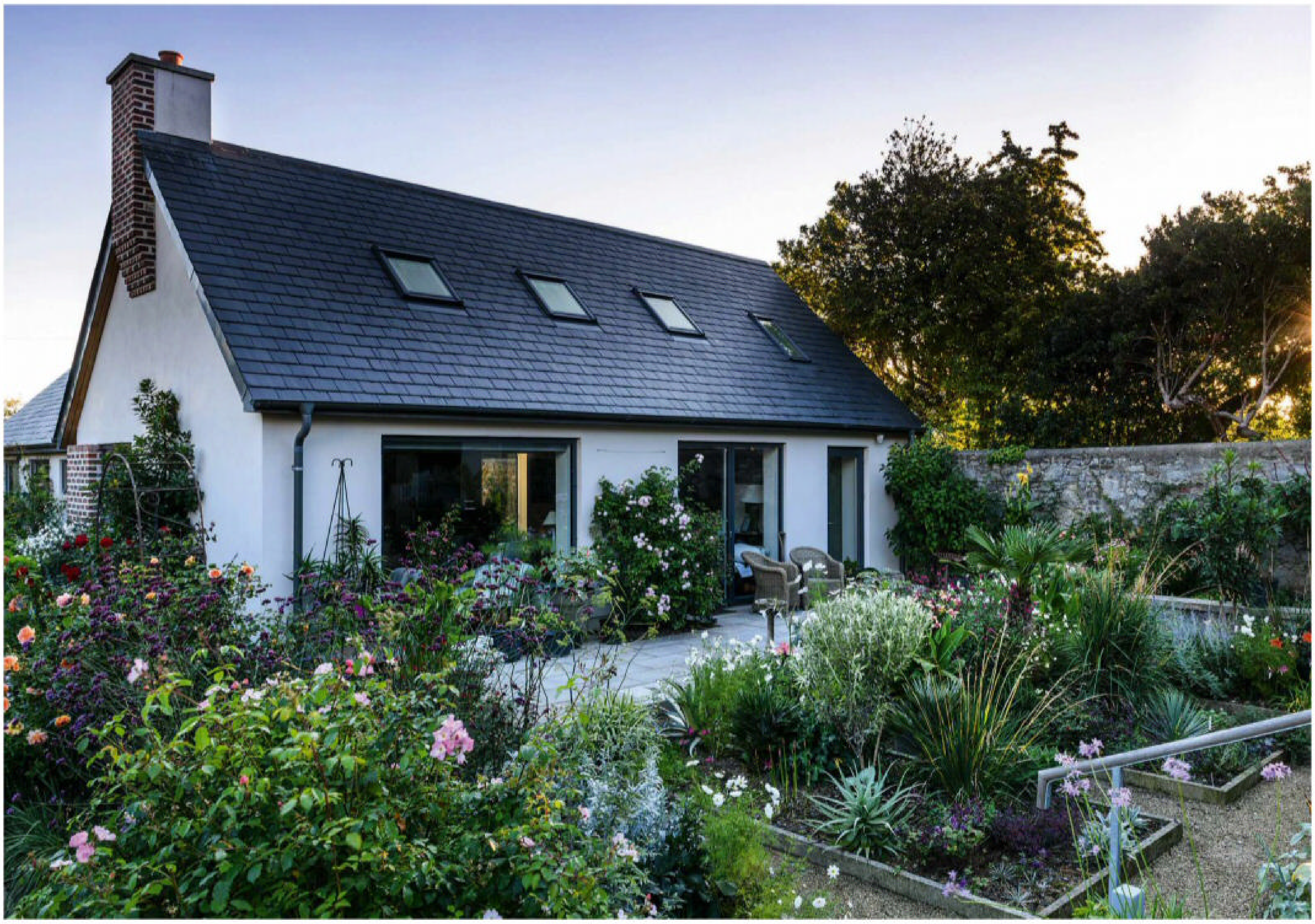


IN BRIEF

What The Dillon Garden, created by Irish gardener and television presenter Helen Dillon, containing many tender plants that thrive outside in the mild, seaside microclimate.
Where Monkstown, Co Dublin.
Size 810 square metres.
Soil Rich, acid loam imported from fields in Co Dublin.
Climate Coastal climate that is relatively frost-free with plenty of bright sunshine. Tall walls and neighbouring trees protect the garden from the worst gales.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

Containers are used throughout the garden. Here *Canna* 'Panache' thrives in a deep, zinc bin, its large leaves standing out against the finer, delicate foliage of the cosmos and *Gladiolus murielae*. In the borders beyond, the red-flowered *Dahlia* 'Grenadier' blooms among others.

Facing page A long, gravel path follows the line of an old granite wall and a campana urn provides a focal point and full stop. The planting is a rich mixture of bedding, perennials and shrubs. Trees 'borrowed' from neighbouring gardens frame the space and link it with the landscape.



Above The 1960s bungalow was modernised for the Dillons, with large, glass doors added to provide wonderful views of the garden. Near to the house Helen's specials – such as *Agave bracteosa*, the squid agave, so called because of its tentacle-like foliage – are planted in the new, slightly raised beds.

Right A view towards one of the workhorse greenhouses that supply the garden with a succession of bedding through the seasons. In the foreground, palms and cannas jostle with dahlias and cosmos, and the arching seedheads of *Dierama* species. The large foliage of the coppiced *Paulownia* makes a dramatic focal point.

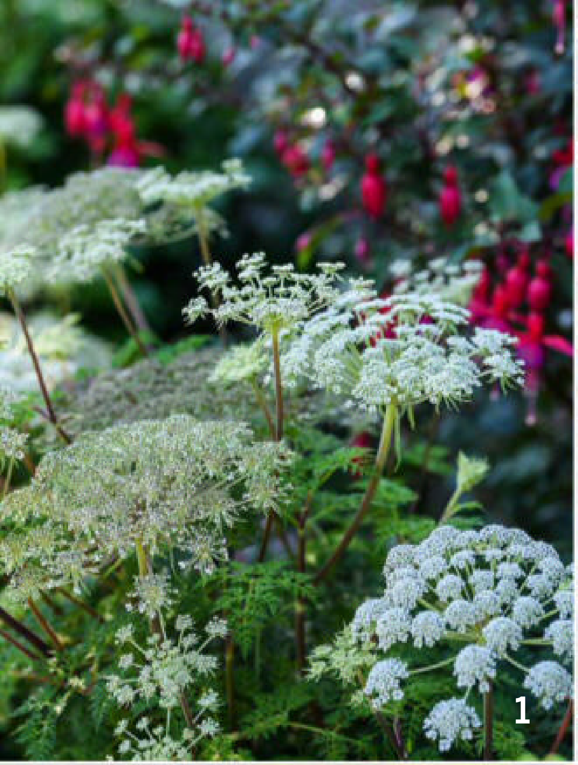
It came as quite a shock to the gardening community when in 2016 Helen Dillon announced she was leaving her wonderful garden of more than 40 years. Created with her husband, Val, at Sandford Road in Dublin, Ireland, that garden was as much a feast for the mind as for the eyes. Helen grew botanical treasures, such as glittering silver celmisias and the lovely woodland orchid *Cypripedium reginae*, with enviable ease. Good heritage varieties certainly earned their keep as well. Notable examples, such as the blistering-red *Dahlia* 'Murdoch' and a superb specimen of *Kniphofia northiae* with whirlpools of glaucous-green, aloe-like leaves could be found alongside calmer foliage, the perfect complement. There was something to appeal to everyone. Among the main focal points of the garden were the sumptuous, colour-themed borders. The extraordinary red and blue beds gleamed at each other from across a long, formal pool. So why leave this internationally acclaimed masterpiece, and what would be next?

"I've been gardening forever!" Helen exclaims. She speaks quickly and precisely, not wasting words. She speaks like she gardens – with an energy and enthusiasm that is compelling. "I just woke up one morning and thought, 'We need to move!' I adored Sandford Road – but we had done and tried everything. We were there for so long, and there just wasn't a place to make anything new. All I was doing was looking after things, not creating them." Initially, Val was apprehensive, but he soon agreed. The seed was sown, and eventually they found a property in Monkstown, a couple of hundred metres from the coast. The property, named Dun Mhuire, was a gardener's dream and it was soon agreed that it would become their new home.

Dun Mhuire, surrounded by a tall, 19th-century wall made from a jigsaw of buff-grey granite, offers shelter and a mild climate. The house, a bungalow, is unreservedly modernised compared with the couple's previous home and the garden itself promised an equally comprehensive renaissance. Large, glass doors open invitingly on to the garden, and linear paths with modern steps carve the garden into beds and borders. The paths are lined with buff gravel that helps to bind the new design to the old walls. The soil throughout ▷

To continue turn to page 40

Over the past five years, the garden has found its feet quite quickly, and with Helen revelling in her new-found freedom, the beds and borders are now overflowing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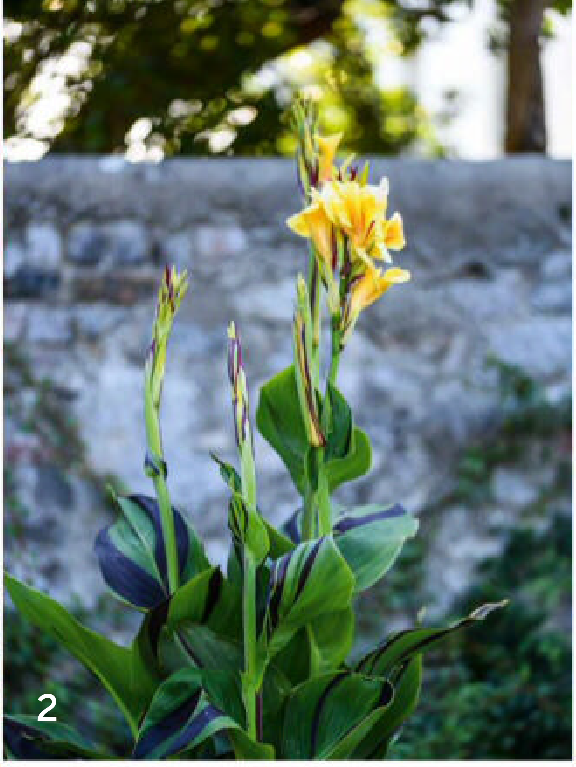
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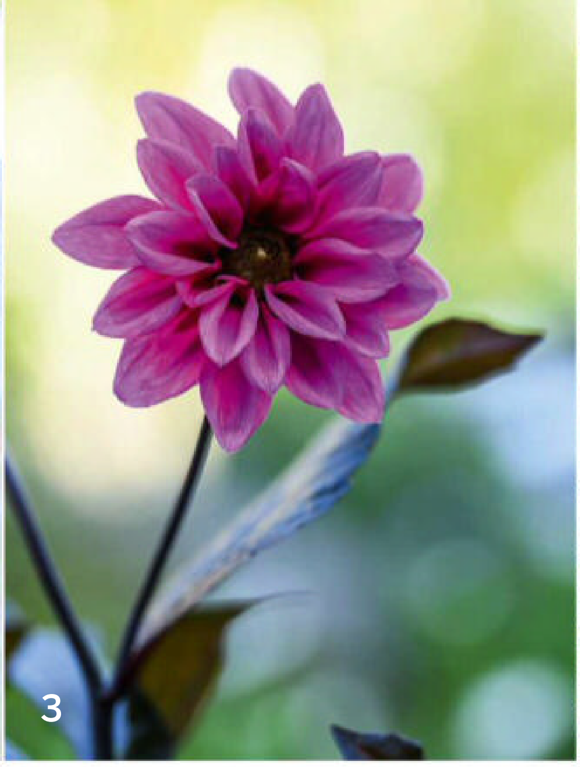
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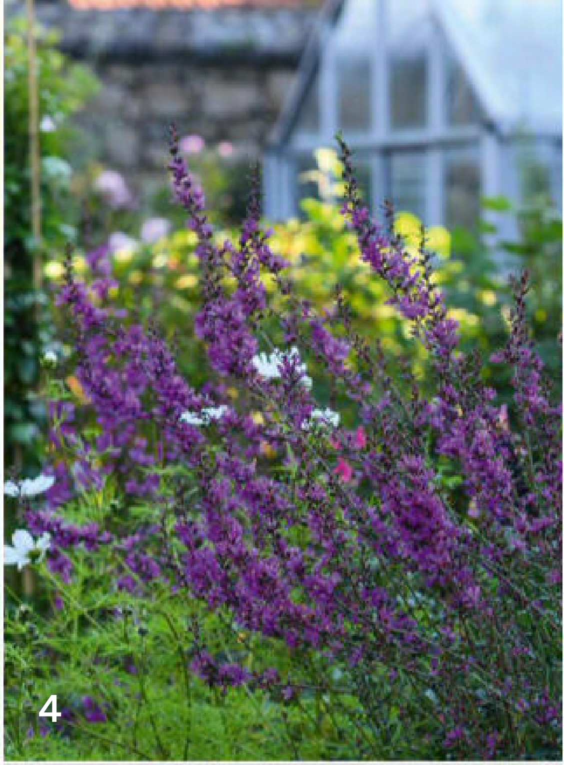
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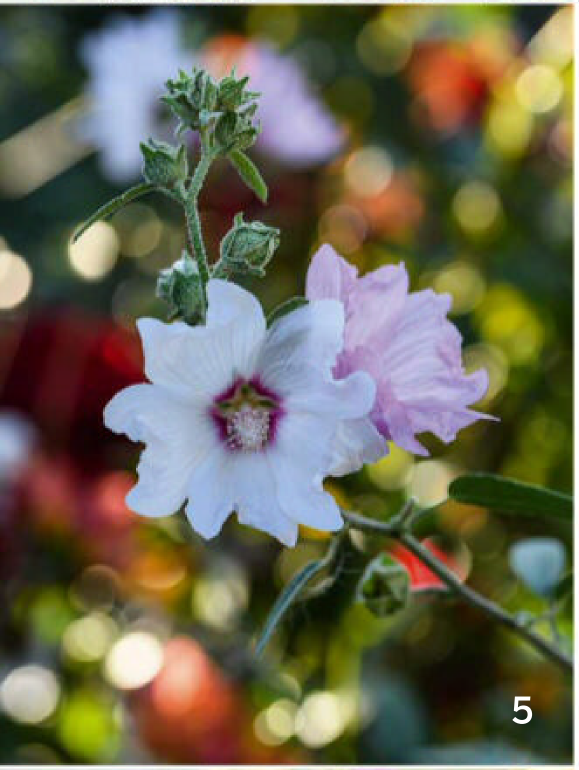
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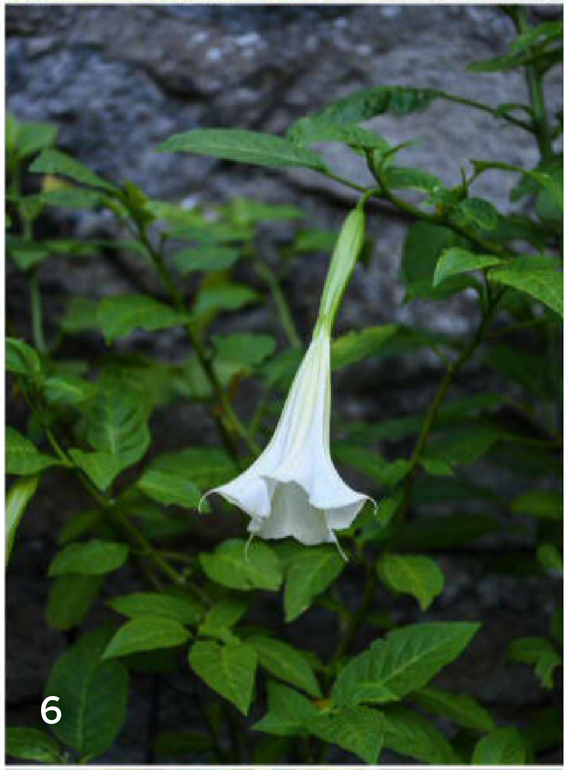
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24 KEY PLANTS

1 *Selinum wallichianum* A useful, late-flowering, hardy perennial that makes conical, white-spoked umbels above attractive mounds of soft, ferny foliage. The foliage is a striking foil for other flowers much earlier in the year. 1.4m. AGM*. RHS H6†.

2 *Canna* 'Cleopatra' This unusual canna usually produces bright-yellow blooms, but occasionally it has red stripes or even entirely sways towards red. It flowers all summer and has striking, green leaves with black marbling. 2m. RHS H3.

3 *Dahlia* 'Fascination' A dwarf, decorative-type dahlia that makes a healthy foil of dark-chocolate foliage against bright, magenta-pink, semi-double flowers. This shorter dahlia is excellent for bedding or at the front of the border. 1m. AGM. RHS H3.

4 *Lythrum salicaria* 'Feuerkerze' A classic, herbaceous perennial that makes sturdy clumps of tall stems bearing thin flower spikes in bright mauve. It grows best in moist, rich soils. May need support in exposed sites. 1.6m. AGM. RHS H7.

5 *Lavatera* x *clementii* 'Barnsley' This rangy shrub makes long wands smothered in large, funnel-shaped flowers all summer. The blooms are clear white to pale pink with a central, dark-pink eye. Cut back hard in the spring to promote vigorous growth and flowering. 2m. RHS H5.

6 *Brugmansia* x *candida* A fast-growing, tender shrub that needs overwintering in a conservatory. It carries spectacular, hanging, trumpet-shaped, white flowers on the tips of the new growth. Feed to get the best display of flowers. 2m. RHS H1C, USDA 8a-10b.

7 *Indigofera pendula* A pretty shrub with delicate, pinnate foliage and pendent racemes of pink, pea-shaped flowers – like a small wisteria. Once established, it grows well on dry, sunny sites. 3m. RHS H5.

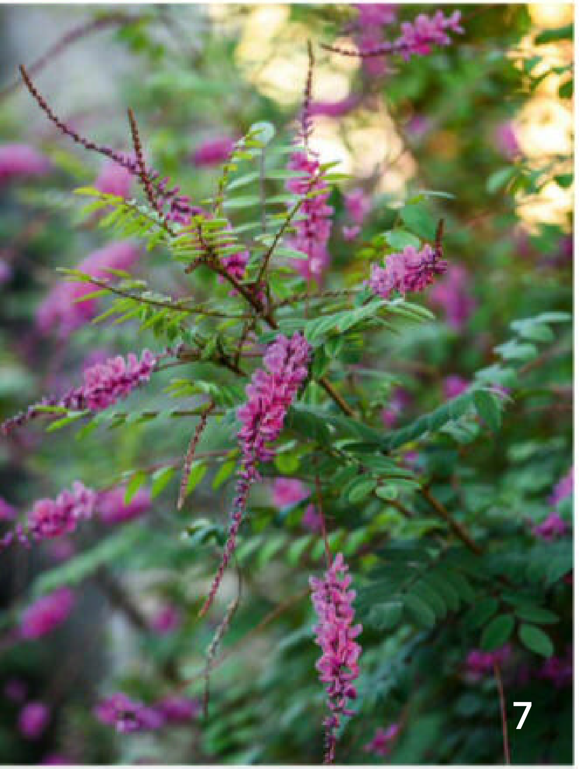
8 *Abutilon* 'Souvenir de Bonn' This fast-growing, tender shrub is a wonderful bedding or conservatory plant. It has loud, variegated, maple-like foliage, and bell-shaped flowers in coral-orange on the tips of the new shoots all summer. 2.5m. AGM. RHS H2.

9 *Salvia cacaliifolia* A shrubby salvia for a warm, sunny site, bearing neat, sagittate foliage and fine spikes of typical, blue-hooded salvia flowers. Not reliably hardy and best started afresh from cuttings each year. 1m. AGM. RHS H2.

10 *Tibouchina urvilleana* Forms large, purple flowers on the tips of branching stems. The felty foliage is also quite appealing. It is tender and does best overwintered in a frost-free conservatory. 2m. AGM. RHS H2, USDA 9a-11.

11 *Paulownia tomentosa* Can ultimately make a large tree with mauve, foxglove-like flowers, but can also be controlled and cut back hard annually to a woody stump to encourage super-large leaves on vigorous growth. 12m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

12 *Ugni molinae* Hailing from Chile, this slow-growing, evergreen shrub bares small, pendent, bell-shaped, pink flowers, followed by edible, polished, mahogany-red berries that are delicious. Likes a moist, acidic soil and a sheltered site. 1.2m. RHS H4.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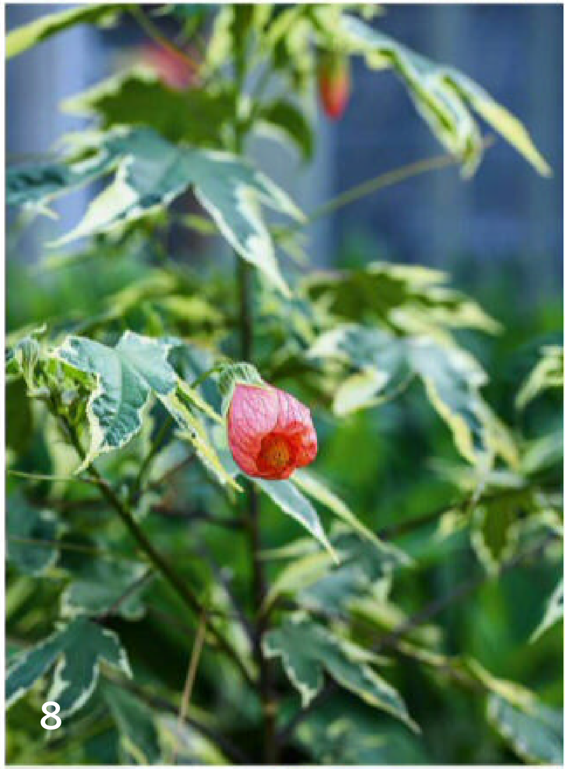
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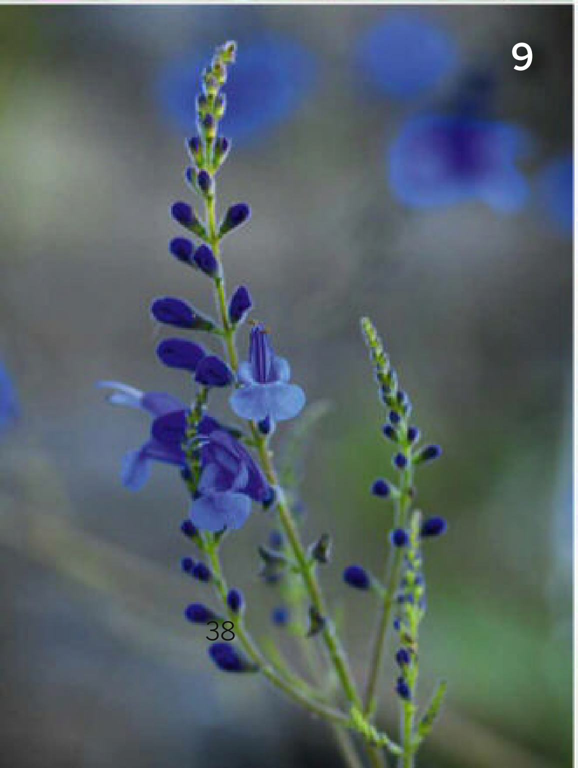
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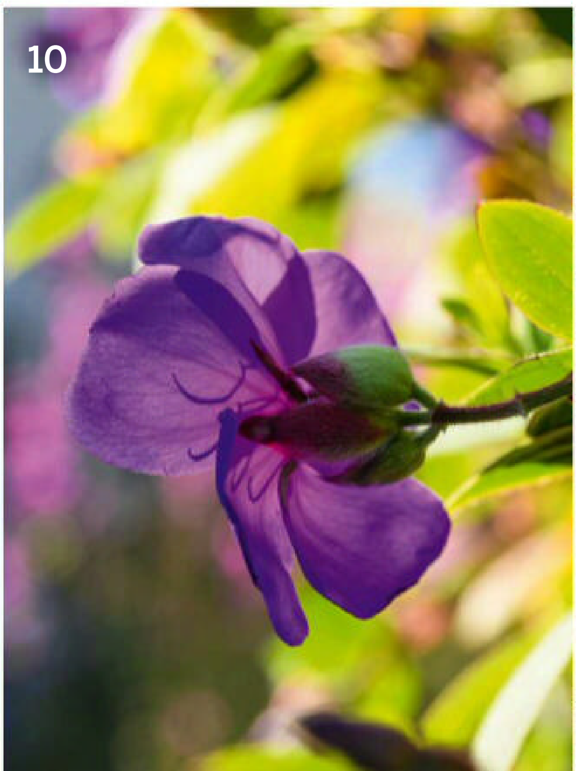
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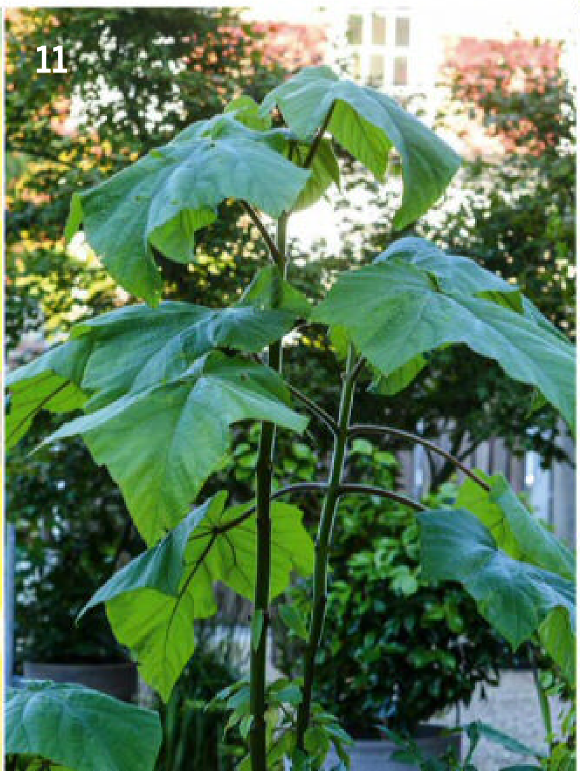
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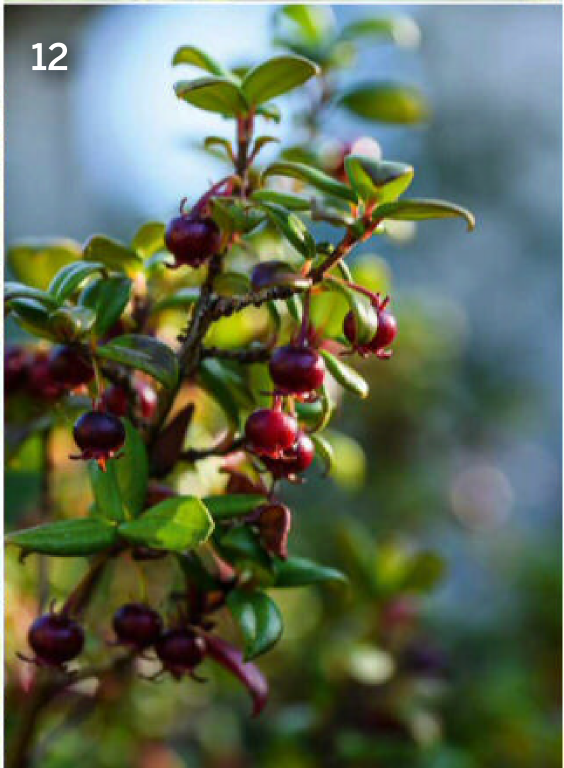
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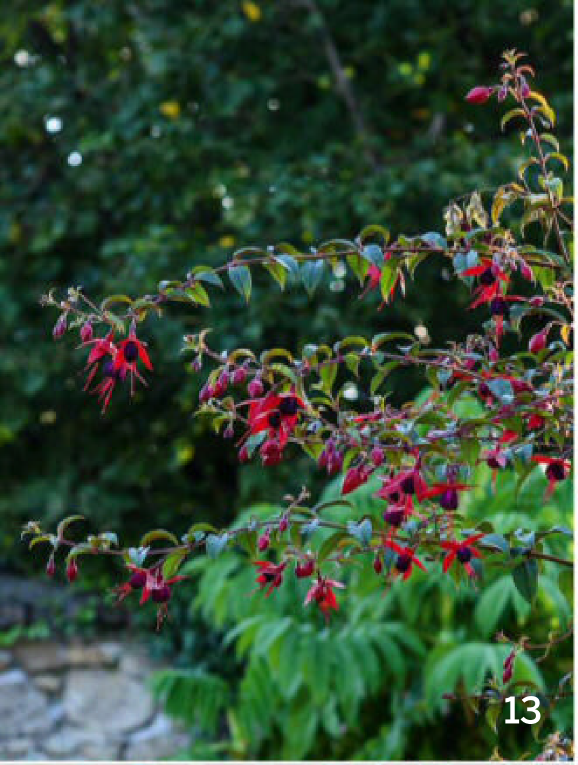
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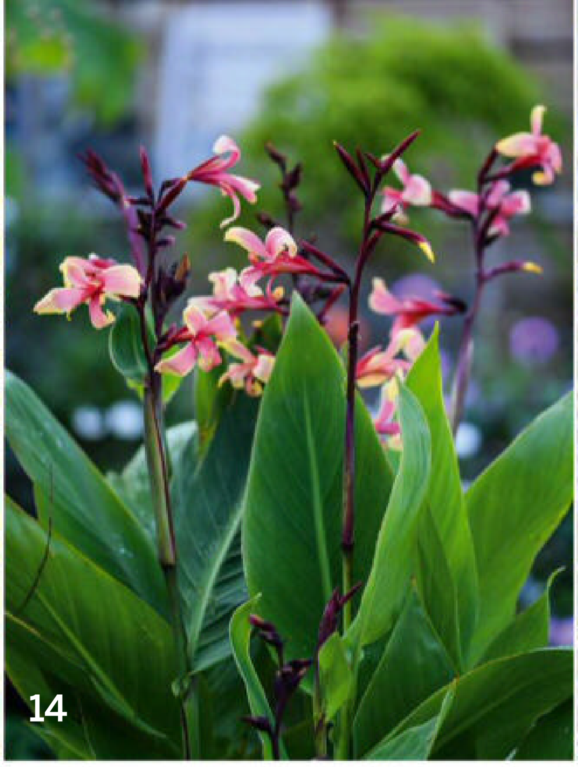
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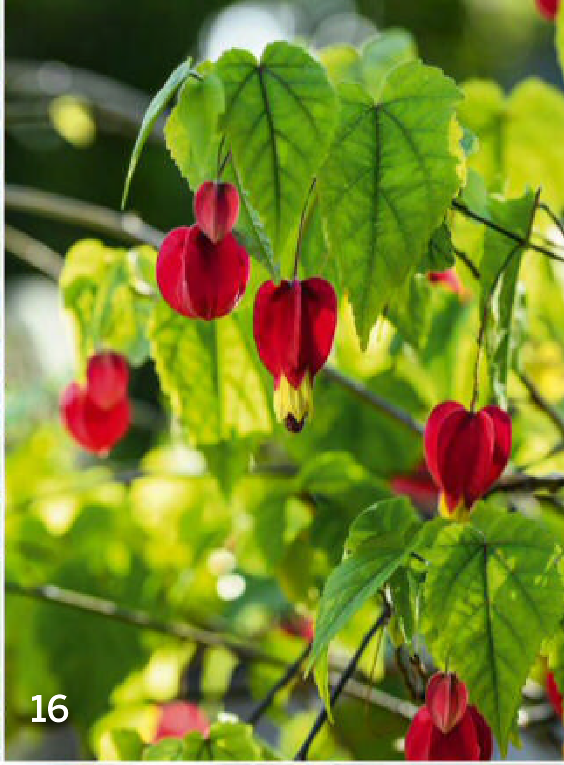
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13 *Fuchsia* 'Lady Boothby' A wonderful, scrambling fuchsia, especially vigorous when trained against a warm, sheltered wall. Large, hanging flowers in bright cerise and midnight purple all summer long and well into autumn. 4m. AGM. RHS H4.

14 *Canna* 'Panache' An exotic-looking, tender perennial grown for its large, paddle-shaped leaves in grey-green, and its showy, coral-pink flowers. These hungry, fast-growing plants do best in rich, moist soils. 1.9m. RHS H3.

15 *Limonium platyphyllum* 'Violetta' Statice, as it is commonly known, is a drought-tolerant perennial producing rosettes of wide foliage and sprays of small, purple, everlasting flowers that are good for insects and for cutting. 40cm. RHS H7.

16 *Abutilon megapotamicum* This unusual, tender abutilon has small, hanging, lantern-like flowers in bright red and yellow. It forms a lax shrub and is best trained against a wall for protection and support. 2m. AGM. RHS H3.

17 *Trachycarpus fortunei* Forms wide fans of corrugated leaves atop thin, fibrous stems, and provides instant drama and height without taking up too much space – especially useful in smaller gardens. 10m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.

18 *Lathyrus latifolius* A perennial pea that produces masses of scentless, mauve flowers in late summer. It can either be coaxed up a shrub or trained up a frame made of pea sticks. 1.8m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

19 *Gladiolus murielae* This gladiolus is easy to grow in warm, well-drained soil. It makes spikes of brilliant-white, scented flowers with a dark-maroon centre. Great for weaving through other perennials. 1m. AGM. RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b.

20 *Melianthus major* 'Antonow's Blue' A very striking form selected for its smoky-purple hues and jagged foliage. Cut back hard in the spring to get the best, fresh, new growth. Bruised foliage smells of tahini. 1.4m. RHS H3.

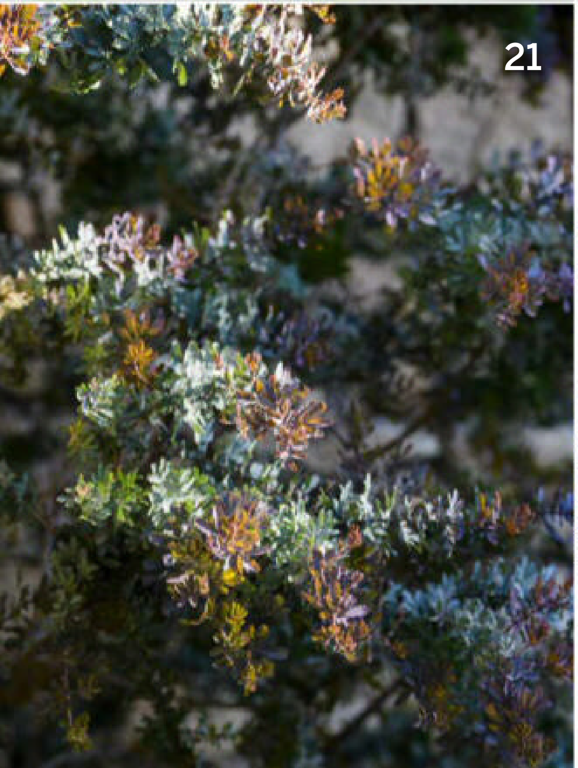
21 *Acacia baileyana* 'Purpurea' In a sheltered coastal garden or a large pot in a conservatory, this wattle makes showy plumes of slate-purple foliage. Can be cut back to promote new growth. 7m. AGM. RHS H3.

22 *Cyperus papyrus* This tender sedge has long, leafless stems that terminate in grassy orbs. It can be bedded out in the border or used as a summer marginal in a pond. It can be difficult to overwinter but is easy to grow from seed. 3m. AGM. RHS H1C, USDA 9a-10b.

23 *Salvia* 'Royal Bumble' This long-flowering sub-shrub makes an excellent garden plant. Blooms are produced from May to October. Plant in a sunny position at the front of the border. Once established, it is resistant to drought. 1m. AGM. RHS H4.

24 *Roscoea purpurea* Royal Purple hybrids These relatives of the ginger family have attractive, leek-like foliage and large, sage-like flowers that appear all summer. They grow best in moist, light soil in a light, woodland setting. 40cm. RHS H5.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.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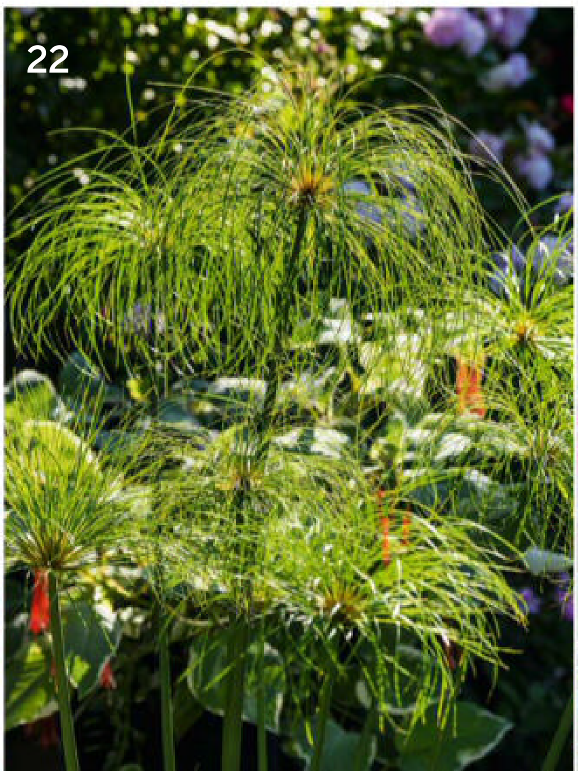
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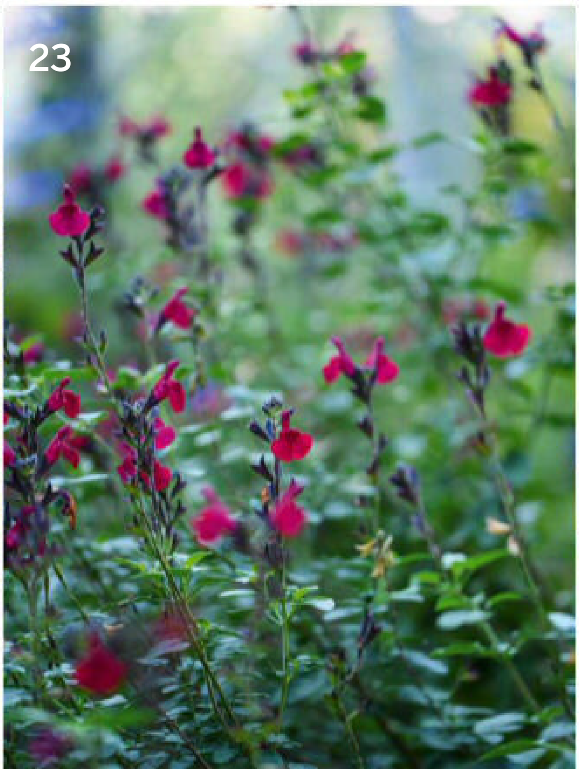
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▷ the garden was removed to a depth of 45cm and replaced with rich loam, "so it was an empty space to start with", Helen explains. When it came to the planting (or "time to play", as Helen calls it), the blank canvas gave her huge scope. "I spent my entire time creating red and blue borders in the previous garden; now I spend my time making gorgeous mixtures."

Over the past five years, the garden has found its feet quite quickly, and with Helen revelling in her new-found freedom, the beds and borders are now overflowing. The walls that shield the garden are a wonderful canvas against which to 'paint' plants, and are festooned with climbing roses, cestrums, fuchsias and solanums. At their feet, Helen cultivates a range of plants, many of which would be far too tender if grown in a less sheltered location. *Sonchus fruticosus* ("by no means beautiful, but rather extraordinary", as Helen describes it) is rather like an excited dandelion on steroids, reaching over 1.8m in height and spread. *Hagenia abyssinica,* with its statuesque foliage, is another of those ultra-rare and special plants that enjoy the new garden. *Melianthus* and *Dendromecon rigida*, which might be floored by the cold elsewhere, form large, permanent shrubs here. Another corner holds the spectacular *Phymosia umbellata*, a commanding shrub with large, vine-like foliage and dark-red flowers. Spires of *Lobelia tupa* project up above the sea of dahlias and cosmos. Happily, the wonderful celmisias and slipper orchids have also found their way to Dun Mhuire from Sandford Road.

Characteristic of Helen's planting style, the rare and unusual mingle with the familiar and more tolerant, and all plants are grown to perfection. It is a no-holds-barred style that exudes passion and confidence. Large, bold exotics such as cannas and *Tetrapanax* jostle with the delicate blooms of roses, border phlox and hydrangeas. Dun Mhuire may be smaller than Helen's previous garden, but it is every bit the gardener's paradise. ⊐

USEFUL INFORMATION
Address The Dillon Garden, Dun Mhuire, Seafield Avenue, Monkstown, Co Dublin, Ireland A94 X2R1. **Tel** +353 (0)1 214 8740 **Web** dillongarden.com
Open Please check the website for up-to-date information on visiting the garden.

Above There are quiet corners in the garden where the planting is more restrained; here, *Fuchsia magellanica* var. *molinae* arches out from the granite walls that encircle and protect the garden from salty winds, while below them astelias punctuate the creeping plants with their spiky, silver foliage.

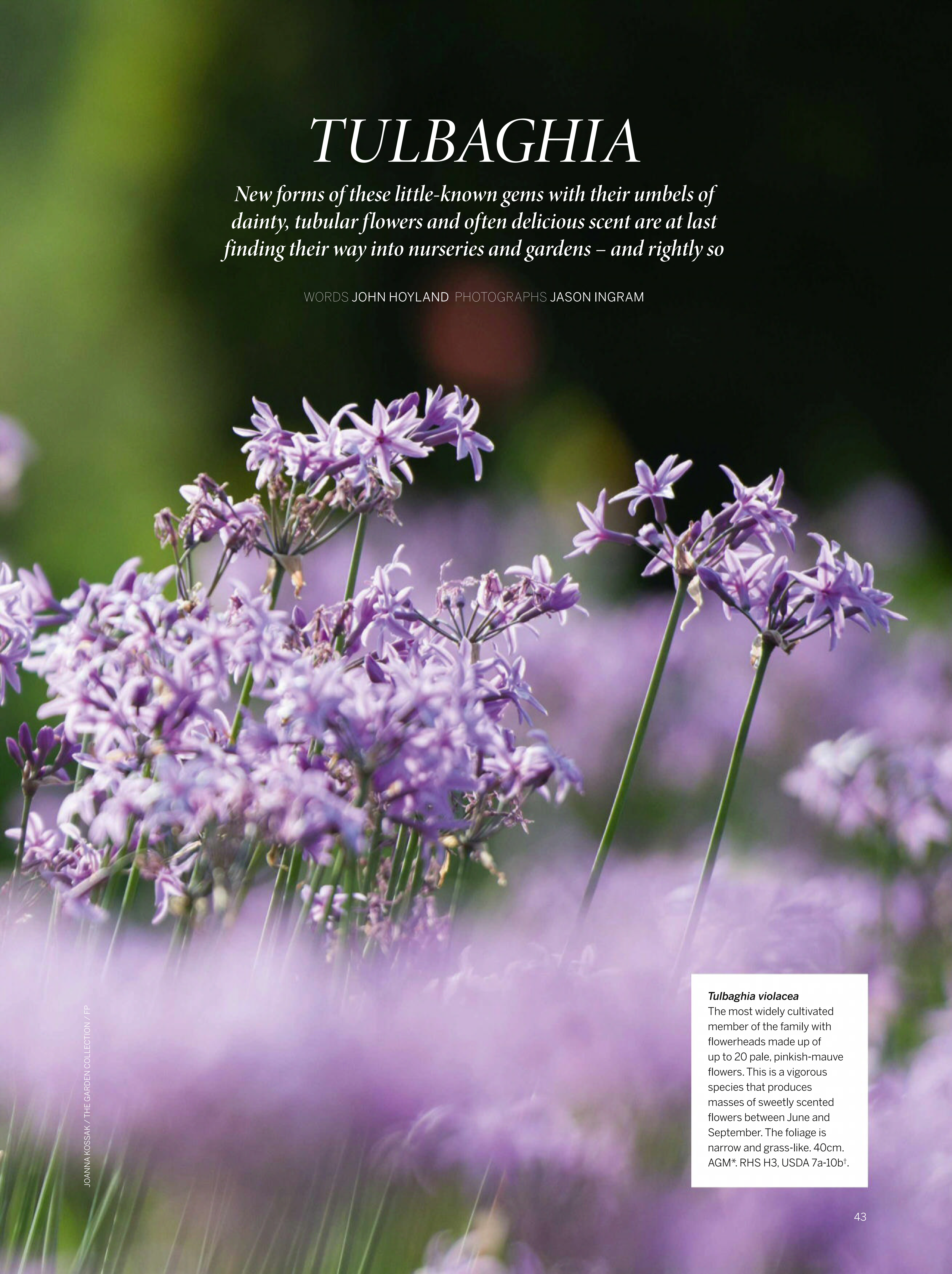
Right A more typical, late-border planting, comprising *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ayesha', *Anemone* x *hybrida*, *Lythrum* and roses. Yet in the background is *Hagenia abyssinica*, a central African tropical tree, enjoying the coastal climate in Monkstown.

The walls are festooned with climbers such as roses, cestrums, and solarnums, at whose feet grow plants that would be far too tender in a less sheltered location

TULBAGHIA

New forms of these little-known gems with their umbels of dainty, tubular flowers and often delicious scent are at last finding their way into nurseries and gardens – and rightly so

WORDS JOHN HOYLAND PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM



Tulbaghia violacea
The most widely cultivated member of the family with flowerheads made up of up to 20 pale, pinkish-mauve flowers. This is a vigorous species that produces masses of sweetly scented flowers between June and September. The foliage is narrow and grass-like. 40cm. AGM*. RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b†.

JOANNA KOSSAK / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP

South Africa is home to ten per cent of the world's flowering plants so it is no surprise that much of this abundance has found its way into our gardens. Among the lesser-known gems from the country are tulbaghias: elegant, airy flowers that resemble small agapanthus, usually with sweetly scented flowers and pungent foliage. Tulbaghias are long-flowering and floriferous, qualities that are winning them enthusiasts among both gardeners and plant breeders.

Found only in southern Africa, the genus consists of about 22 species but only a few are currently widely grown in gardens. The most popular is *Tulbaghia violacea,* which has grass-like foliage typical of tulbaghias that smells strongly of garlic when it is crushed. The flowers form a pinkish-mauve umbel with individual flowers consisting of a ring of six tepals around a raised crown that resembles a miniature daffodil. Most reference books and nursery catalogues suggest that its common name is 'society garlic'. The epithet may have been used long ago, but it is probably no longer current: I have certainly never heard it.

The plant spreads from fat, tuberous roots, which in ideal conditions will form large colonies. I remember seeing (and smelling) the purple haze of a meadow full of *Tulbaghia violacea* growing, appropriately, on the outskirts of the town of Tulbagh in the Western Cape area. Both town and plant are named for Ryk Tulbagh, the Governor of the Dutch Cape Colony in the mid-18th century, who found time away from governing to botanise. Tulbagh corresponded with the botanist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus and sent him specimens of hundreds of indigenous plants. It's not difficult to imagine the awe and wonder Linnaeus must have felt on seeing these treasures.

There are several white and very pale cultivars of *Tulbaghia violacea* and a couple with variegated foliage, although these are neither as vigorous nor as floriferous as their parent. On warm days the flowers of *Tulbaghia violacea* have a sweet perfume. A similar species, *Tulbaghia simmleri*, has a much stronger perfume that is released at night, suggesting, as is true for many of the species, that it is pollinated by moths. A pot of the plant standing on a terrace on a summer evening will fill the evening air with perfume. The foliage is broader than that of *Tulbaghia violacea* and has a glaucous sheen. The flowers are a similar colour but fatter and more densely packed than those of its cousin.

These two species, with their pink and mauve flowers, are the most commonly available, but there are species that tend to be grown only by specialist nurseries that have strikingly different flowers. Those of *Tulbaghia montana* and *Tulbaghia acutiloba*, for example, have an orange or rust-coloured centre and both are very highly scented. *Tulbaghia natalensis* has white flowers that are tinged with purple with a greenish-yellow centre. All three species are vigorous and long-flowering.

Until recently, most of the hybrids and cultivars available to gardeners have resulted from very few species, but nurseries and breeders in America, Australia and Britain are introducing other species into the mix, as well as offering for sale a wider range of hybrids and cultivars. In Britain, Steve Hickman, a holder of one of the National Collections of tulbaghias, has made several selections from seedlings grown at his nursery. One of his pride and joys is *Tulbaghia* 'Hoyland Green Beauty', which has an unusual, pale-green eye with a distinct green stripe on each of the soft-pink petals. Steve is continuing to make further selections. In Australia, a group of *Tulbaghia* named the Border Stars series includes *Tulbaghia* 'Milky Way', which has pale-pink flowers and dark stems and reputedly tolerates wet soil better than other hybrids. One of the most arresting of the new hybrids is from America, a plant called *Tulbaghia* 'Flamingo' that has pale-pink flowers and the same colour at the base of the leaves.

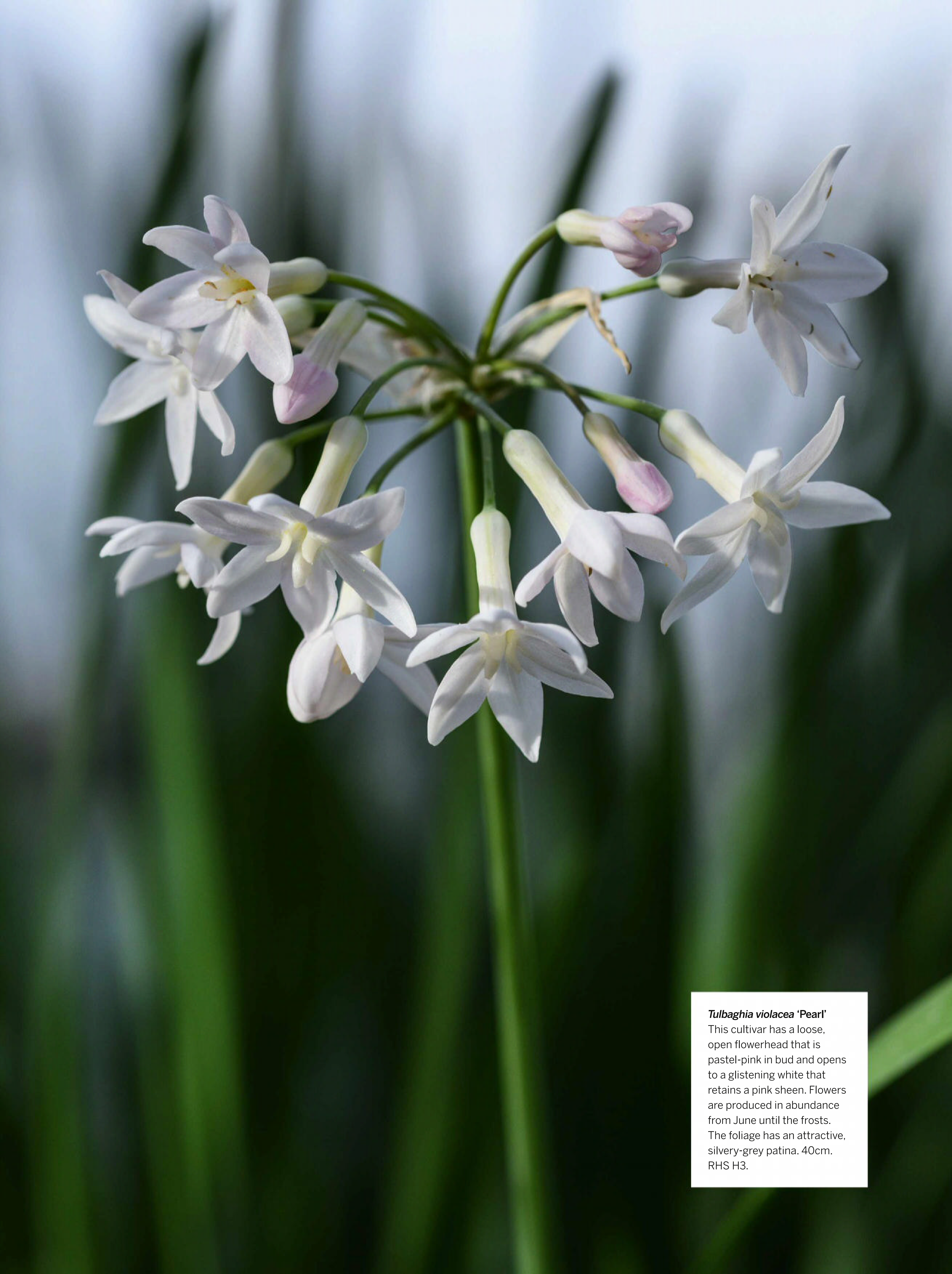
As these and similar hybrids are produced on a commercial scale, we can expect to see them more often in nurseries and garden centres, meaning that more of us can enjoy this beguiling plant. ❐

• John Hoyland is a plantsperson and garden writer. His recommendation for the best tulbaghias can be found over the next five pages.

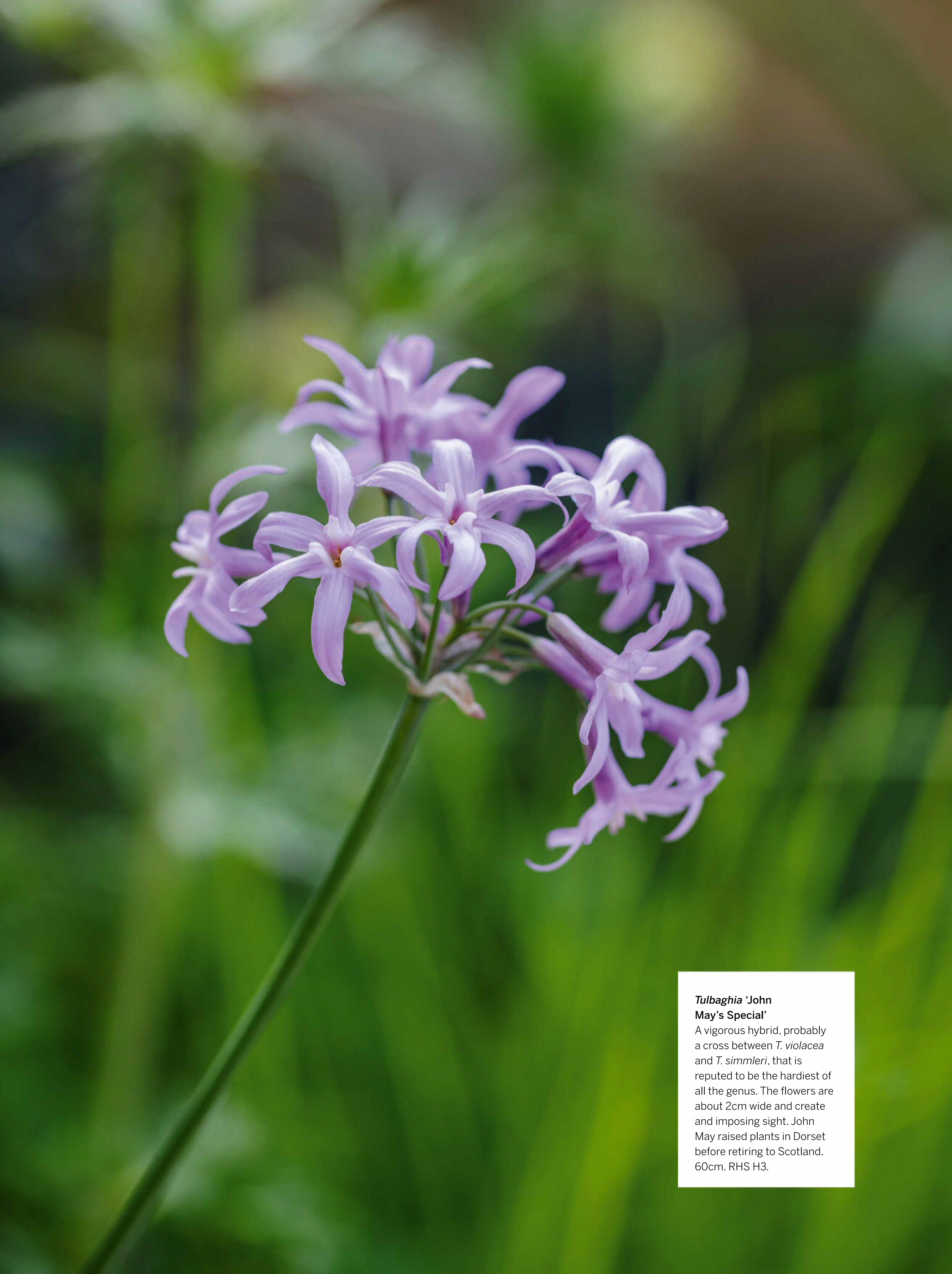
PLANT PROFILE

What A genus of bulbous plants belonging to the Alliaceae family that are grown for their pretty umbels of usually scented flowers, and for their long-flowering nature.
Origins All are native to southern Africa with most found in the Cape area of South Africa.
Season Flowering is from late spring and through the summer. Some forms flower continuously from May to October.
Size Between 30cm and 50cm tall with a spread of about 30cm.
Conditions Full sun and well-drained, rich soils that do not dry out in summer.
Hardiness RHS H2-H3, USDA 7a-10b.

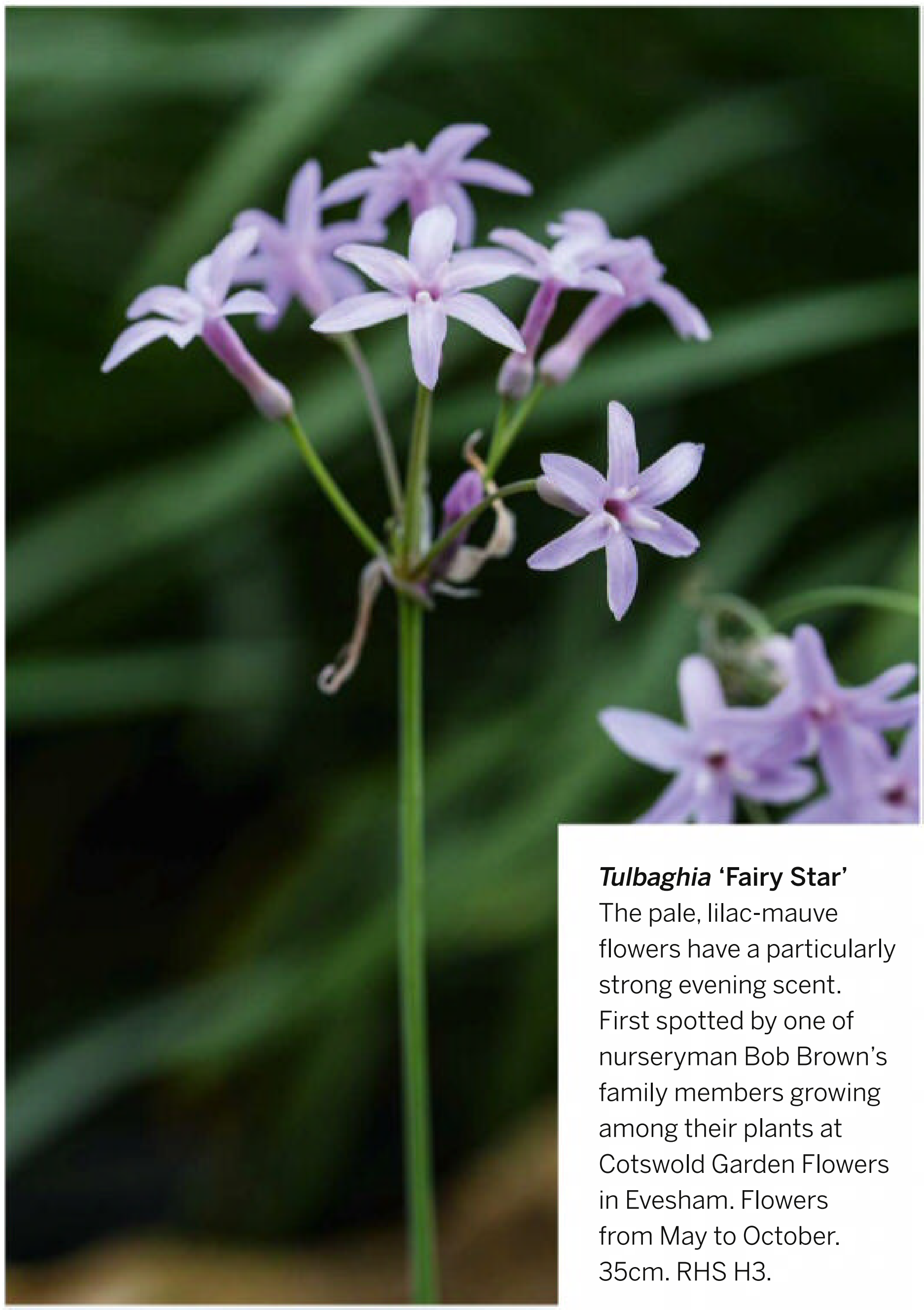
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



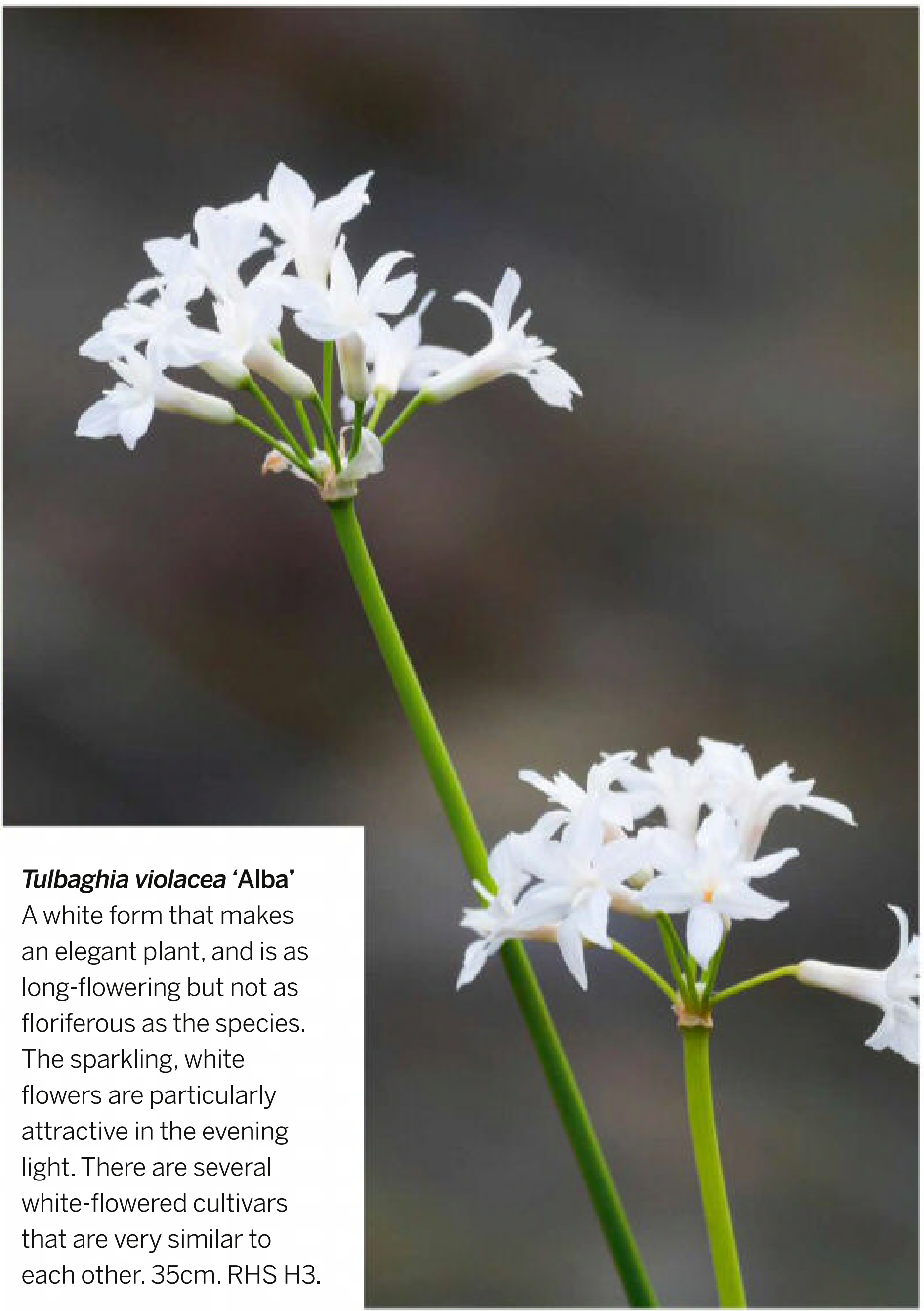
***Tulbaghia violacea* 'Pearl'**
This cultivar has a loose, open flowerhead that is pastel-pink in bud and opens to a glistening white that retains a pink sheen. Flowers are produced in abundance from June until the frosts. The foliage has an attractive, silvery-grey patina. 40cm. RHS H3.



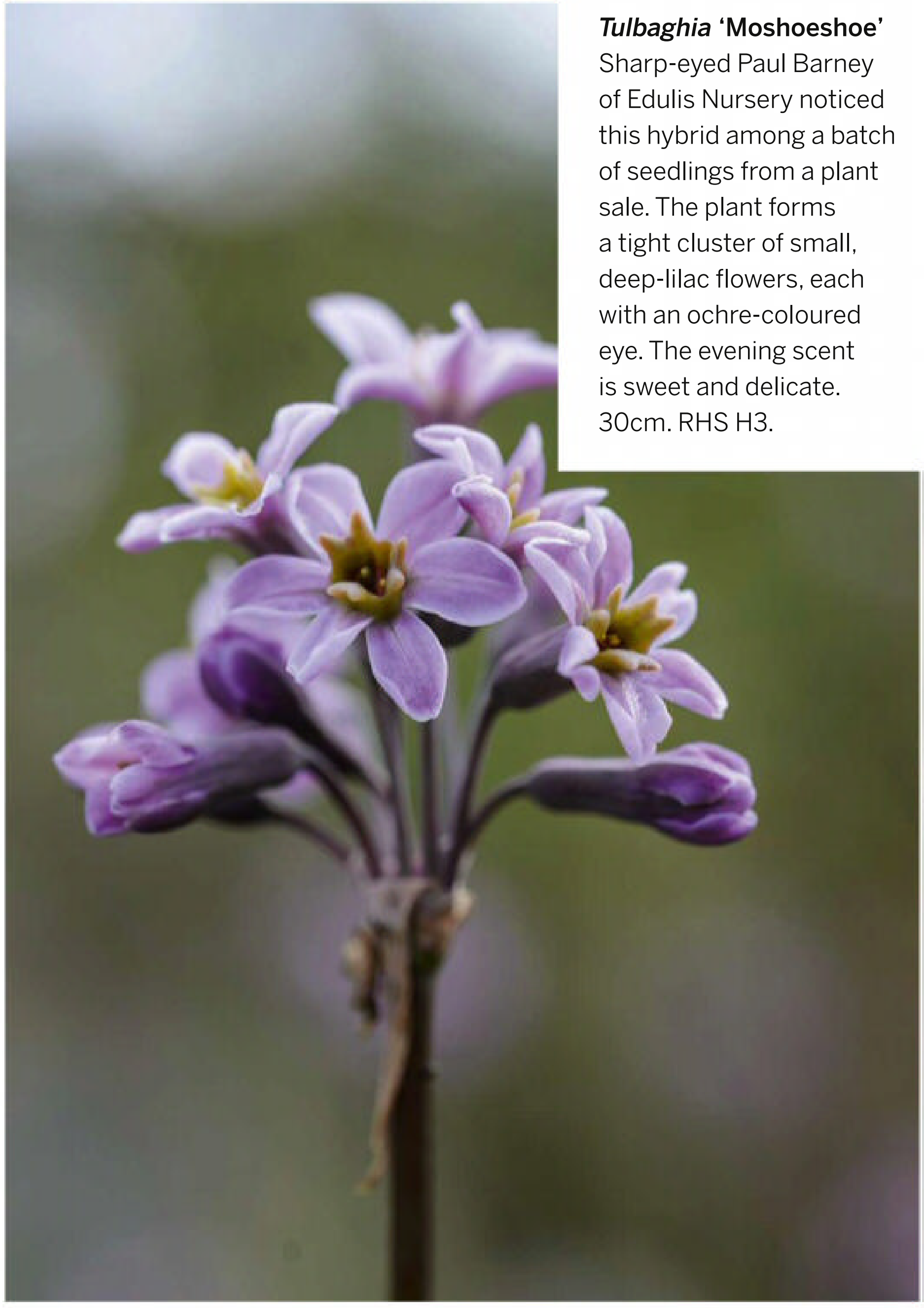
***Tulbaghia* 'John May's Special'**
A vigorous hybrid, probably a cross between *T. violacea* and *T. simmleri*, that is reputed to be the hardiest of all the genus. The flowers are about 2cm wide and create and imposing sight. John May raised plants in Dorset before retiring to Scotland. 60cm. RHS H3.



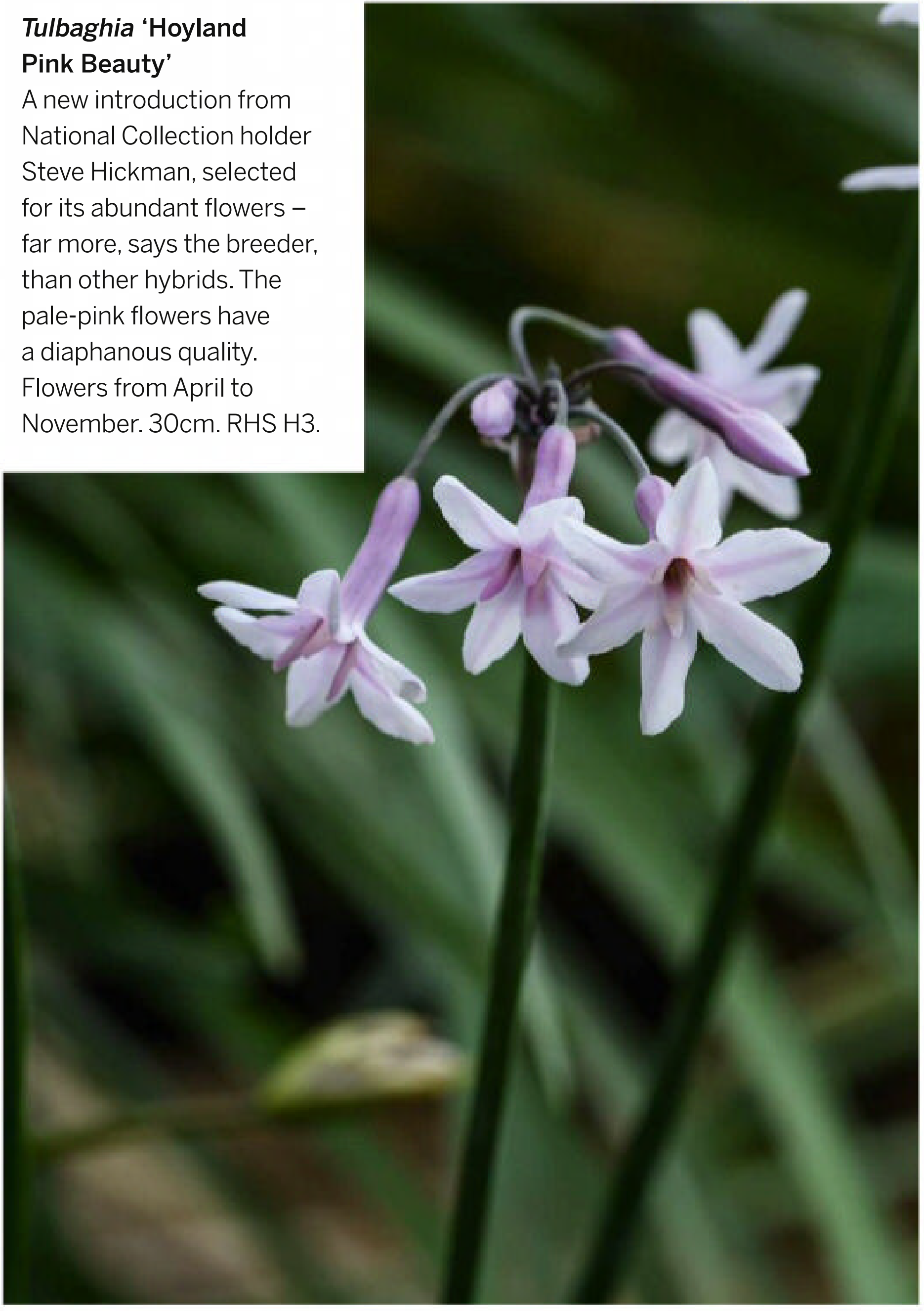
***Tulbaghia* 'Fairy Star'**
The pale, lilac-mauve flowers have a particularly strong evening scent. First spotted by one of nurseryman Bob Brown's family members growing among their plants at Cotswold Garden Flowers in Evesham. Flowers from May to October. 35cm. RHS H3.



***Tulbaghia violacea* 'Alba'**
A white form that makes an elegant plant, and is as long-flowering but not as floriferous as the species. The sparkling, white flowers are particularly attractive in the evening light. There are several white-flowered cultivars that are very similar to each other. 35cm. RHS H3.

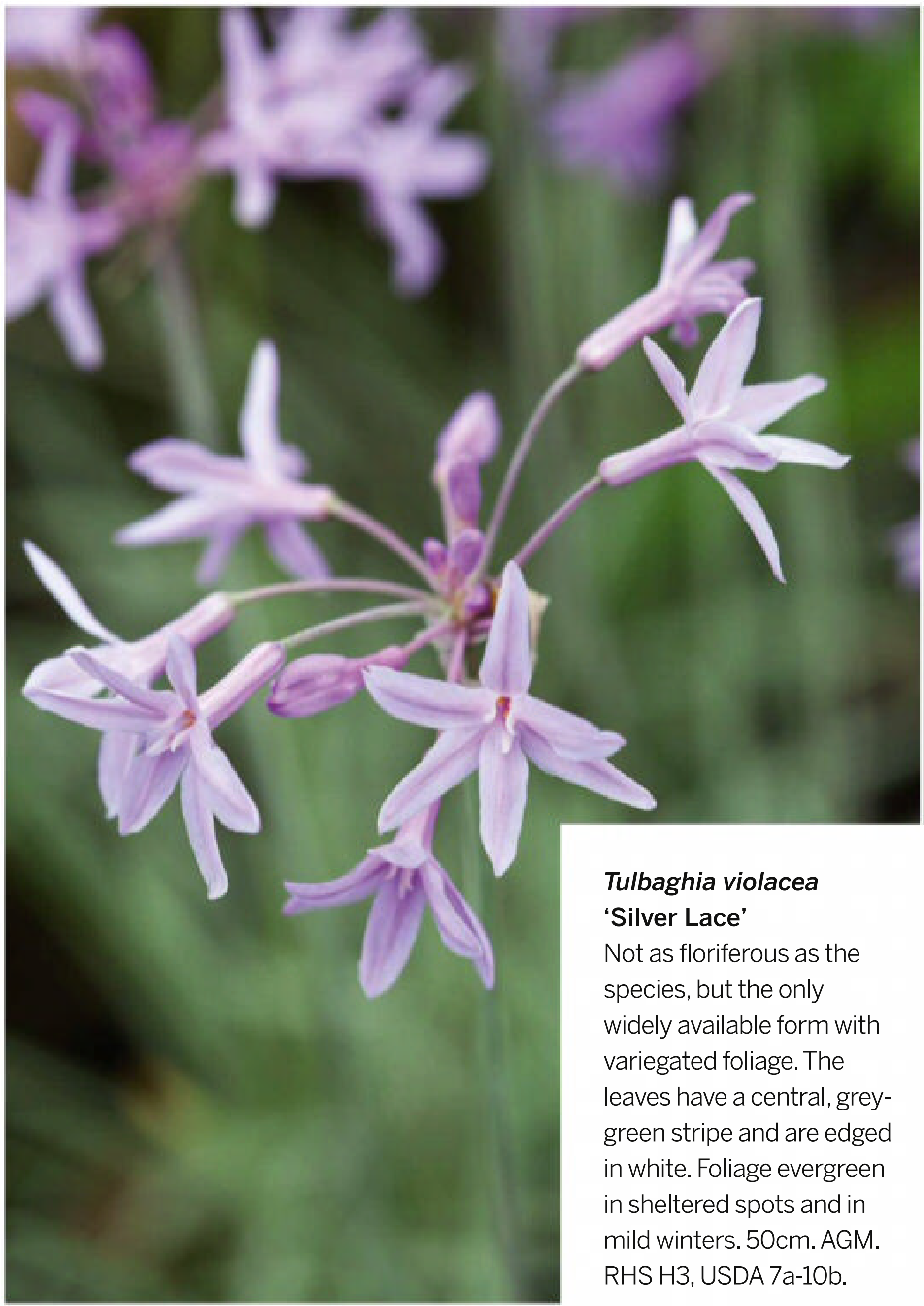


***Tulbaghia* 'Moshoeshoe'**
Sharp-eyed Paul Barney of Edulis Nursery noticed this hybrid among a batch of seedlings from a plant sale. The plant forms a tight cluster of small, deep-lilac flowers, each with an ochre-coloured eye. The evening scent is sweet and delicate. 30cm. RHS H3.

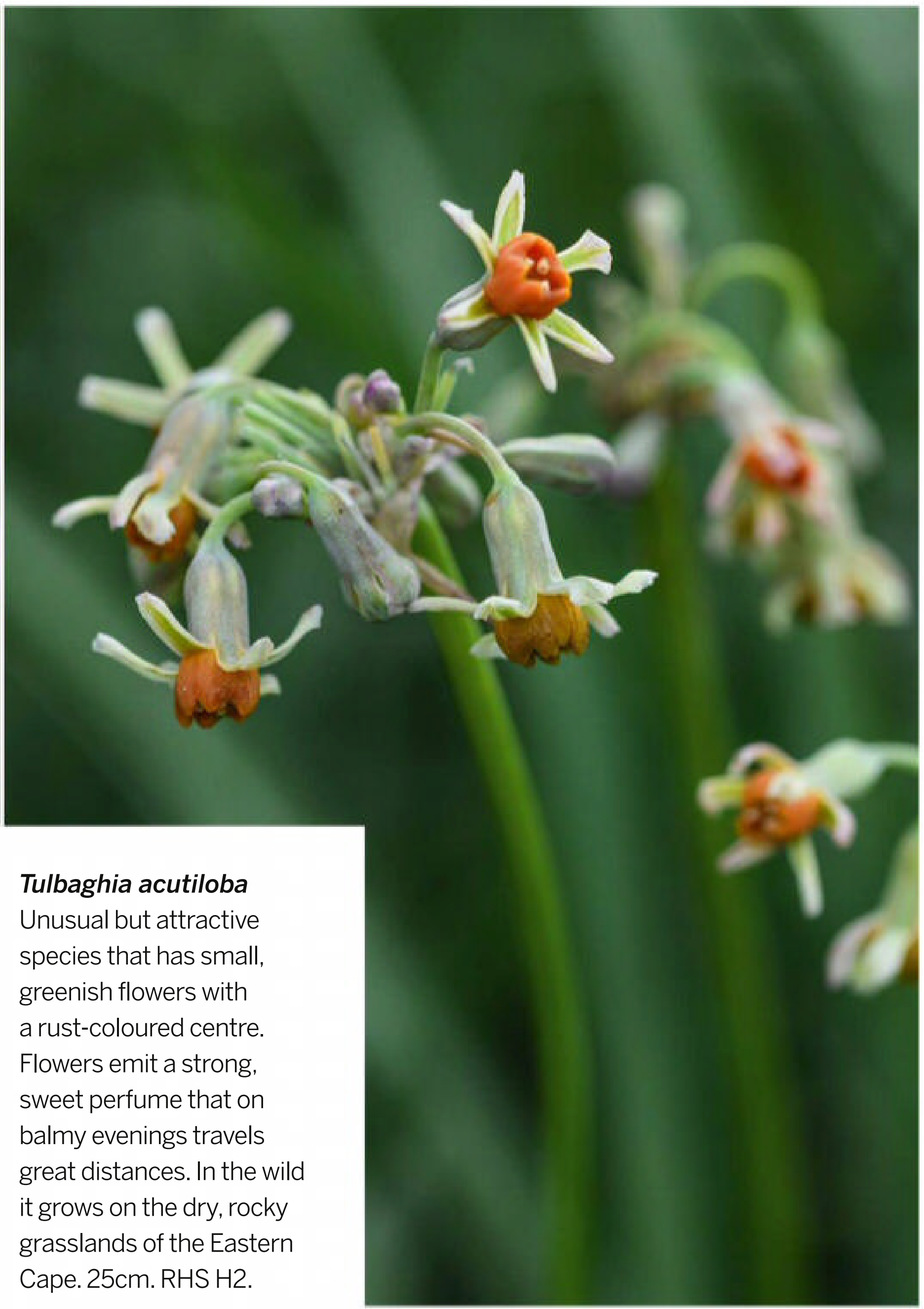


***Tulbaghia* 'Hoyland Pink Beauty'**
A new introduction from National Collection holder Steve Hickman, selected for its abundant flowers – far more, says the breeder, than other hybrids. The pale-pink flowers have a diaphanous quality. Flowers from April to November. 30cm. RHS H3.

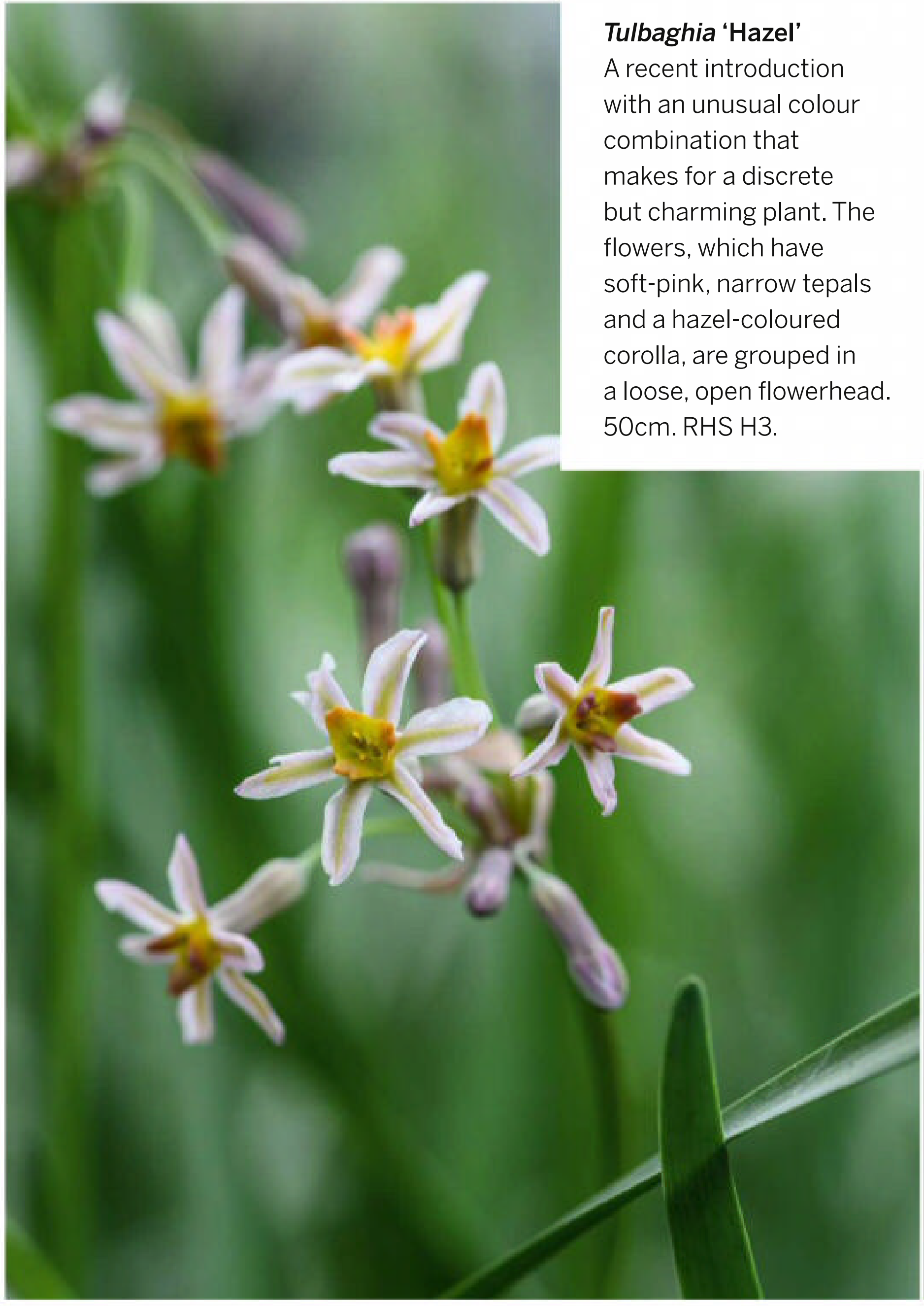
JOHN RICHMOND / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



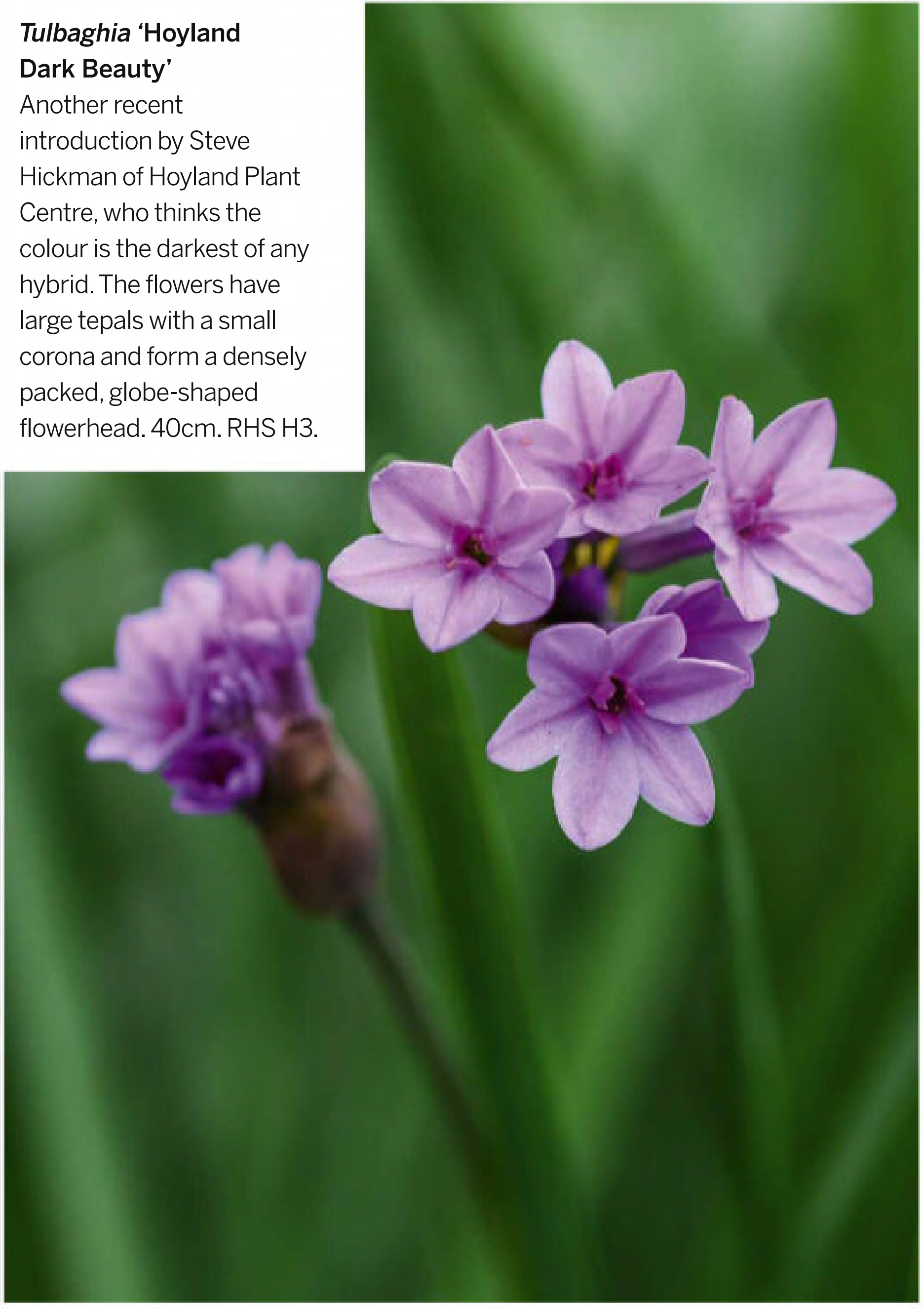
Tulbaghia violacea **'Silver Lace'**
Not as floriferous as the species, but the only widely available form with variegated foliage. The leaves have a central, grey-green stripe and are edged in white. Foliage evergreen in sheltered spots and in mild winters. 50cm. AGM. RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b.



Tulbaghia acutiloba
Unusual but attractive species that has small, greenish flowers with a rust-coloured centre. Flowers emit a strong, sweet perfume that on balmy evenings travels great distances. In the wild it grows on the dry, rocky grasslands of the Eastern Cape. 25cm. RHS H2.

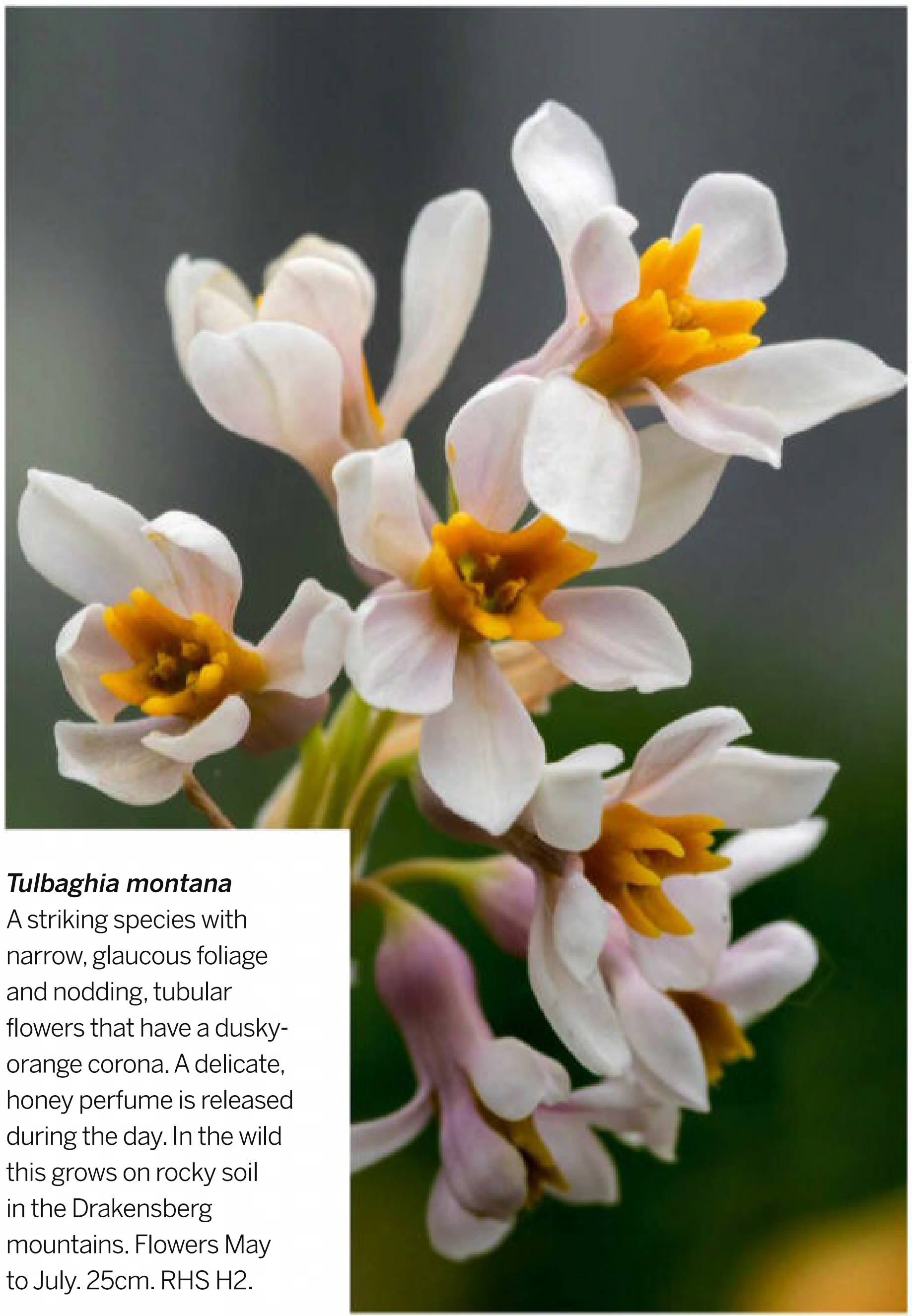


Tulbaghia **'Hazel'**
A recent introduction with an unusual colour combination that makes for a discrete but charming plant. The flowers, which have soft-pink, narrow tepals and a hazel-coloured corolla, are grouped in a loose, open flowerhead. 50cm. RHS H3.

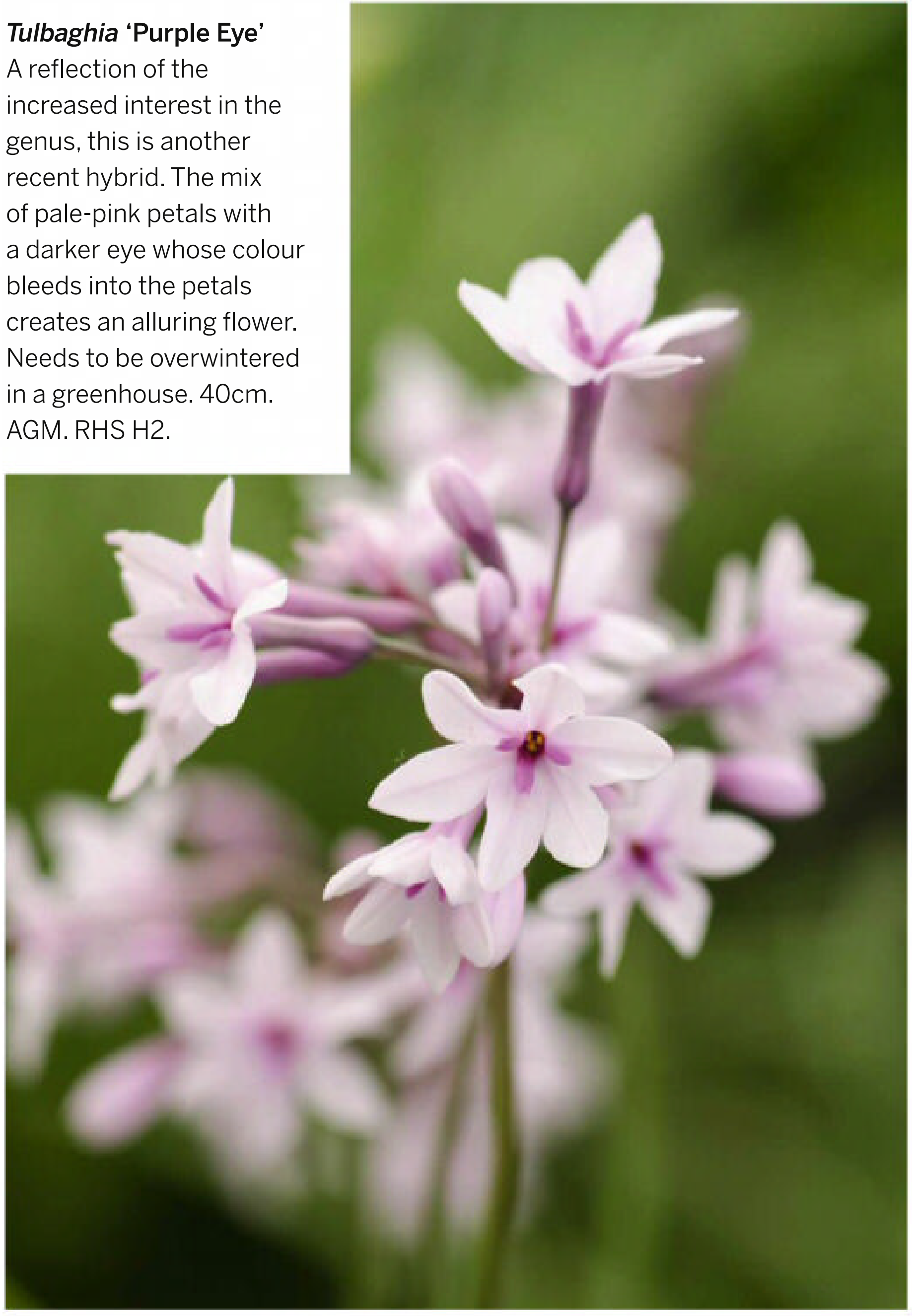


Tulbaghia **'Hoyland Dark Beauty'**
Another recent introduction by Steve Hickman of Hoyland Plant Centre, who thinks the colour is the darkest of any hybrid. The flowers have large tepals with a small corona and form a densely packed, globe-shaped flowerhead. 40cm. RHS H3.

ROB WHITWORTH / GAP PHOTOS.



Tulbaghia montana
A striking species with narrow, glaucous foliage and nodding, tubular flowers that have a dusky-orange corona. A delicate, honey perfume is released during the day. In the wild this grows on rocky soil in the Drakensberg mountains. Flowers May to July. 25cm. RHS H2.



***Tulbaghia* 'Purple Eye'**
A reflection of the increased interest in the genus, this is another recent hybrid. The mix of pale-pink petals with a darker eye whose colour bleeds into the petals creates an alluring flower. Needs to be overwintered in a greenhouse. 40cm. AGM. RHS H2.

IAN THWAITES / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP: HEATHER EDWARDS / GAP PHOTOS. THANKS TO STEVE HICKMAN OF HOYLAND PLANT CENTRE.

Cultivation

The first requirement for tulbaghias to thrive is sunshine, and plenty of it. Plants will grow in partial shade but will produce far fewer flowers. In mild areas of the country, where the temperature does not drop below about -5°C, tulbaghias can be grown in the garden as long as the soil is free-draining. They will tolerate periods of drought but to flower well they need moisture during the flowering season, which for most forms is from May to September.

National Collection holder Steve Hickman recommends that if tulbaghias are grown in the garden their leaves should be cut to about 3cm above ground level in mid-November and the whole plant covered with a 6cm-deep mulch. In coastal areas that are free from frost this probably won't be necessary.

Those of us in the rest of the country will need to grow our tulbaghias in pots and store them during the winter away from frosts in a greenhouse or cold frame. A mixture of about a third each of loam, compost or leaf mould and horticultural grit is ideal. Make sure that the pots are regularly watered when the plant is in flower. An occasional feed with a high-potash fertiliser (the sort used for feeding tomatoes) will keep tulbaghias flowering. The only other regular attention the plant needs is to remove the stems of dead flowers.

To keep them vigorous and flowering well, all plants, whether grown in the ground or in pots, will need splitting every three or four years. Dig up the entire plant and pull apart the fleshy roots, replanting the pieces immediately so that they do not dry out.

Tulbaghias can also be easily propagated from seed. The hard, black seeds are best sown in spring in deep pots. Young plants will flower in their second or third year. Tulbaghias are long-lasting as cut flowers and just a few blooms in a vase will scent a room.

Uses

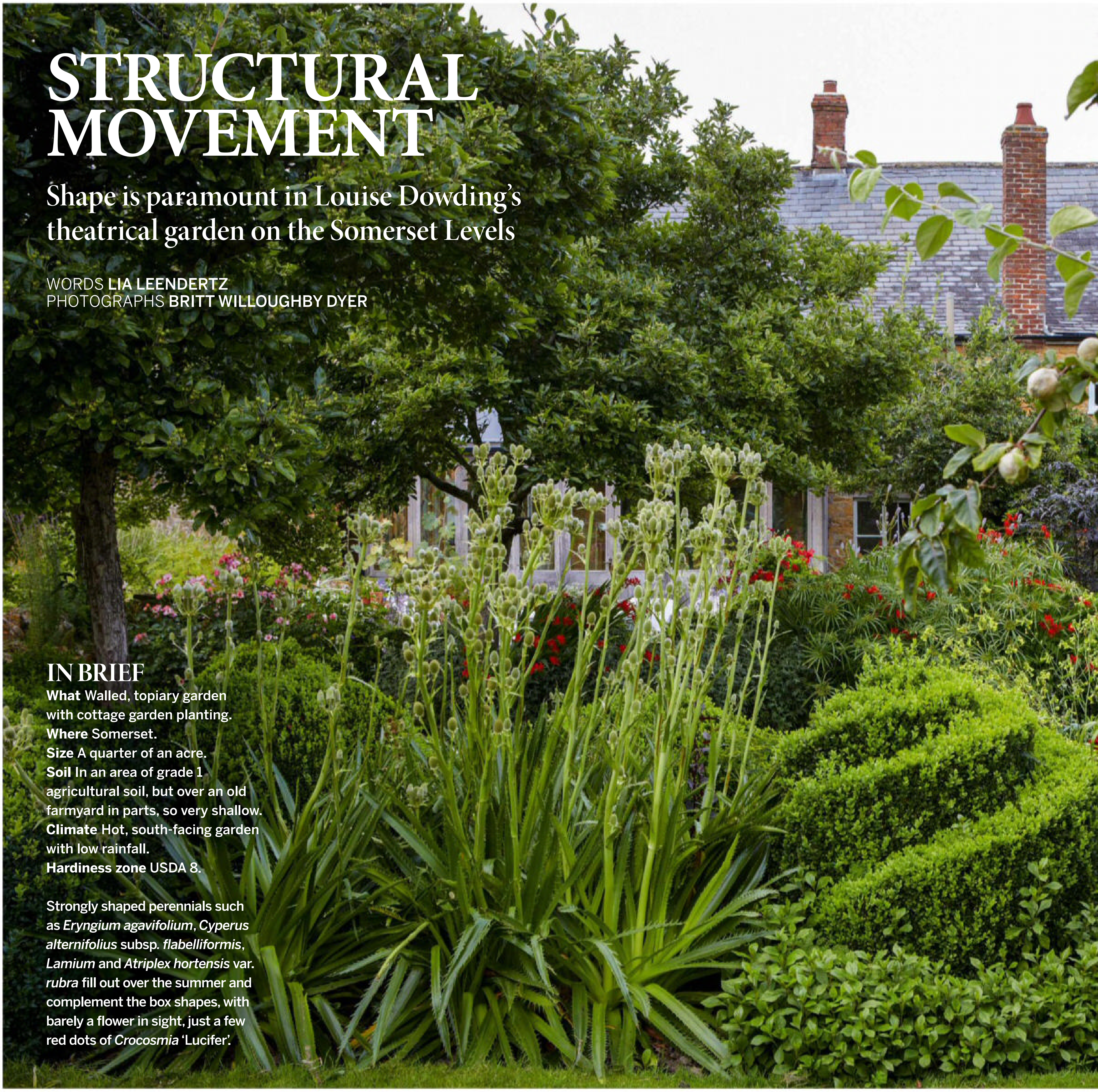
In its native South Africa *Tulbaghia* is known as wild garlic and used both as a condiment and in traditional medicine. Water that has been infused with boiled bulbs is used to treat a variety of ailments, mainly bronchial problems. The leaves can be rubbed on the skin and are said to repel insect bites. Like garlic, *Tulbaghia* has antibacterial properties. Both the leaves and flowers have wide culinary uses. In salads use them sparingly; the leaves are much hotter than chives and the flowers have a strong, peppery taste that can overwhelm some salads.

In parts of KwaZulu-Natal tulbaghias are sometimes planted around houses because the strong smell is said to keep snakes away. I can't vouch for the efficacy of this. The plant was recommended to me by a South African gardener as a way of repelling moles. This might work in the Cape, but it has no effect on moles in Hertfordshire.

Where to buy and see

- **Frances Moore***
  1 Beeches Farm Cottages,
  Canada Farm Road, South
  Darenth, Kent DA4 9LA.
  Open by appointment.
  francesmoore8@gmail.com
- **Hoyland Plant Centre***
  54 Greenside Lane,
  Hoyland, South
  Yorkshire S74 9PZ.
  Tel 01226 744466,
  somethingforthegarden.co.uk
- **Marchants Hardy Plants**
  2 Marchants Cottages,
  Mill Lane, Laughton,
  East Sussex BN8 6AJ.
  Tel 01323 811737,
  marchantshardyplants.co.uk
- **Marwood Hill Gardens***
  Marwood, Barnstaple,
  Devon EX31 4EA.
  Tel 01271 342528,
  marwoodhillgarden.co.uk

*National Collection holders



STRUCTURAL MOVEMENT

Shape is paramount in Louise Dowding's theatrical garden on the Somerset Levels

WORDS **LIA LEENDERTZ**
PHOTOGRAPHS **BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER**

IN BRIEF

What Walled, topiary garden with cottage garden planting.
Where Somerset.
Size A quarter of an acre.
Soil In an area of grade 1 agricultural soil, but over an old farmyard in parts, so very shallow.
Climate Hot, south-facing garden with low rainfall.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

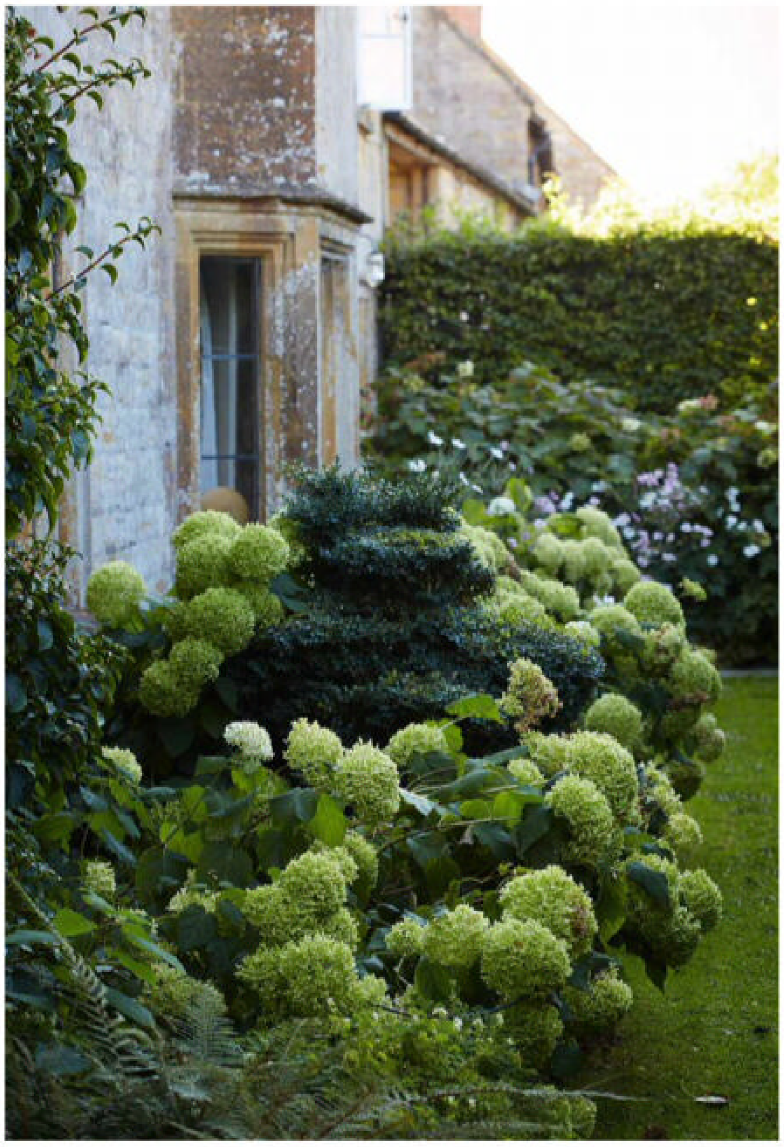
Strongly shaped perennials such as *Eryngium agavifolium*, *Cyperus alternifolius* subsp. *flabelliformis*, *Lamium* and *Atriplex hortensis* var. *rubra* fill out over the summer and complement the box shapes, with barely a flower in sight, just a few red dots of *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer'.

When Louise Dowding and her husband Fergus arrived at Yews Farm in Martock on the Somerset Levels in 1996, the garden was very different. "It had those wiggly 'hosepipe' borders all around the edges, which I'm not so keen on, because it leaves an empty space in the middle where you could have plants." Louise studied garden design at Kingston Maurward College and spent two years working as an assistant to Penelope Hobhouse at Bettiscombe before starting up her own practice, and so she is not short on garden ideas. She knew immediately what she wanted to do, and set about putting it into place. "I ripped everything out except for an old pear tree and started again," she says. Louise's layout for the garden took almost the opposite approach to her predecessor's: a cross shape of wide borders right down the centre of the garden, borders around the edges with wide, grass paths between them but no stretch of open lawn. It made the most of the strong structure of old walls that surround this former farmyard.

This farmyard legacy made itself known almost immediately, when the couple found that a large part of the garden was laid directly over the stone yard, with just a foot of soil covering it. "This is a sunny, hot, south-facing garden anyway, and there was no way

Above Tall and beautifully trimmed yew hedges flank the front path to Yews Farm, drawing the eye towards the entrance and providing the first hint of the architectural elegance that awaits in the garden beyond.

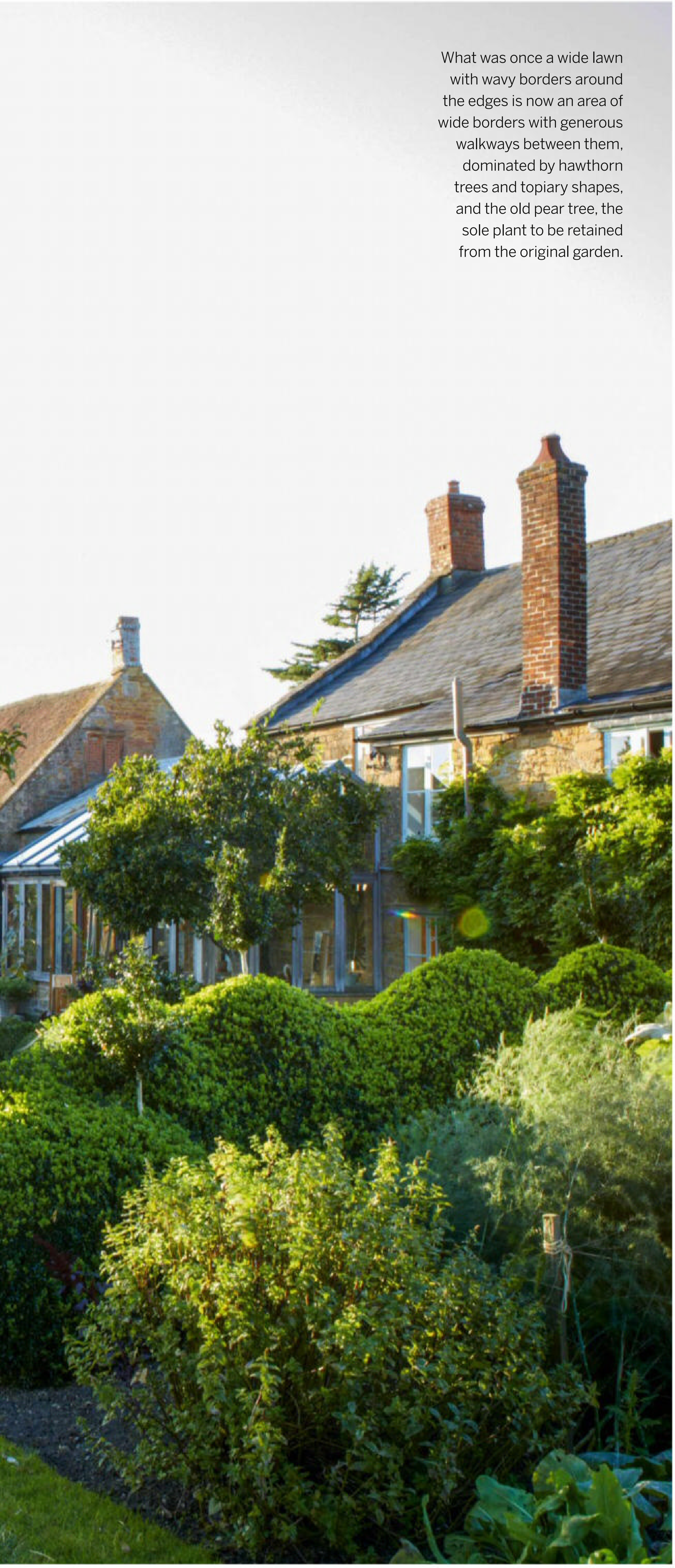
Below The greenish-white, spherical flowers of *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' echo the mounds of the box shapes in the front garden without distracting from them; any flowering plants complement rather than threaten the overall green palette.



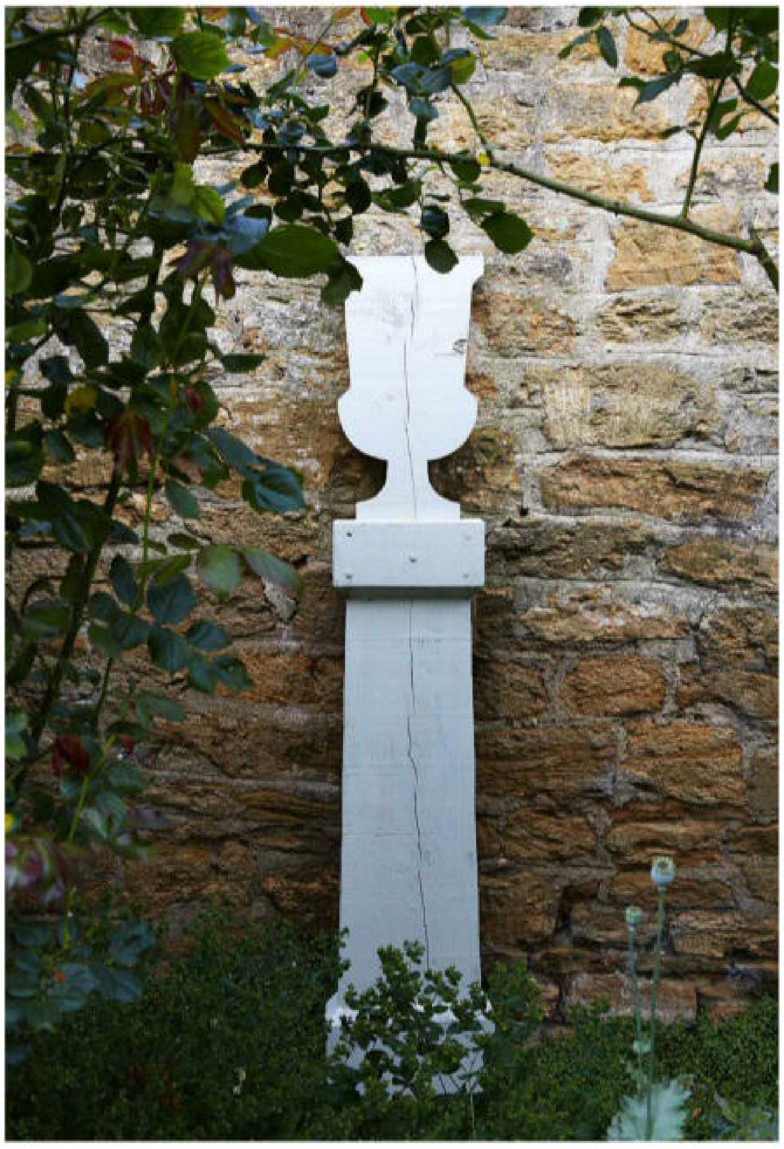
we could take up all that stone. I had to find plants that could cope with shallow soils." This narrowed down her options for the new garden. "Roses don't do well here, though we have sneaked in a few at the edges where there are deeper pockets of soil, but hawthorns do brilliantly, as does *Euphorbia oblongata*, which seeds itself everywhere. Salvias, crocosmias and the Mexican daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus* are all really successful in our hot, dry conditions." Most importantly, box thrives here and quickly became central to the entire layout of the garden. "I knew I wanted to establish a strong structure straight away," says Louise, "so I started planting little, 30cm

To continue turn to page 54 ▷

I knew I wanted to establish a strong structure straight away, so I started planting 30cm hedging plants all through the borders

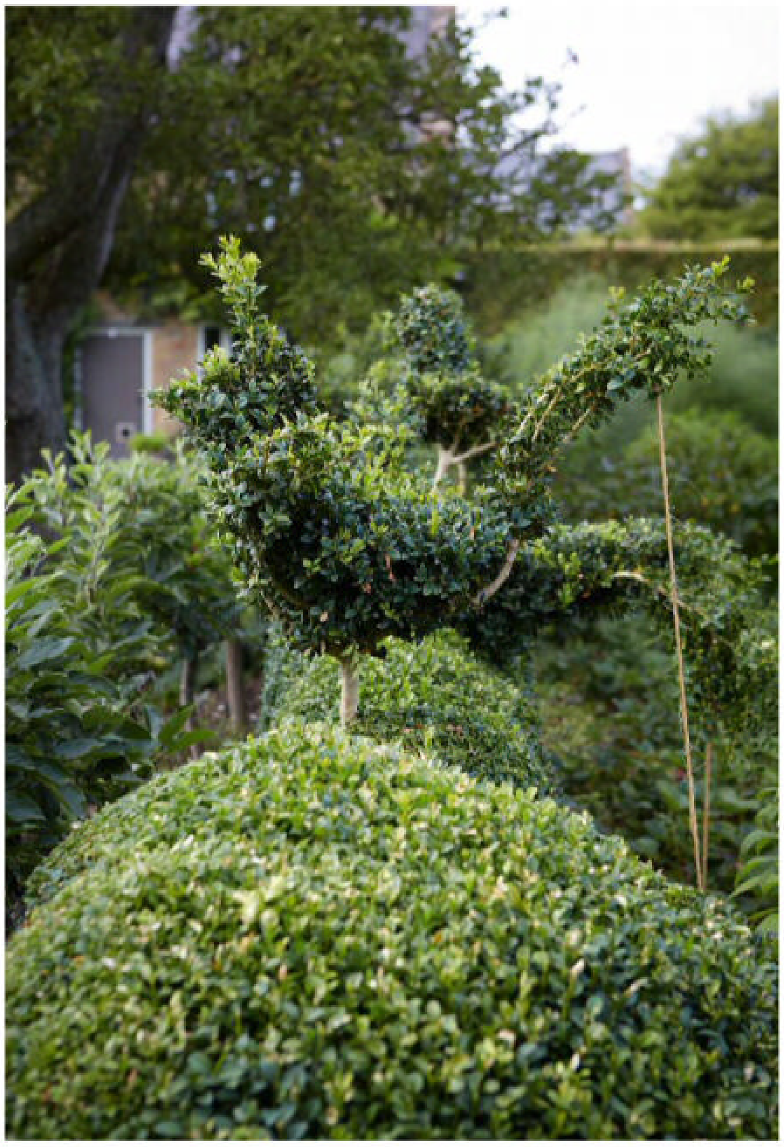


What was once a wide lawn with wavy borders around the edges is now an area of wide borders with generous walkways between them, dominated by hawthorn trees and topiary shapes, and the old pear tree, the sole plant to be retained from the original garden.



Above Louise has had a tall, decorative, oak plinth made up to adorn the ginger-coloured hamstone walls. The warm, traditional, local stone, which is quarried in nearby Ham Hill, is the perfect foil for the cream-coloured pedestal.

Below Around the vegetable garden, Fergus also dabbles in some playful topiary of his own, moving away from the original box balls to create more dynamic shapes in the form of birds and snails along the top of the hedge.

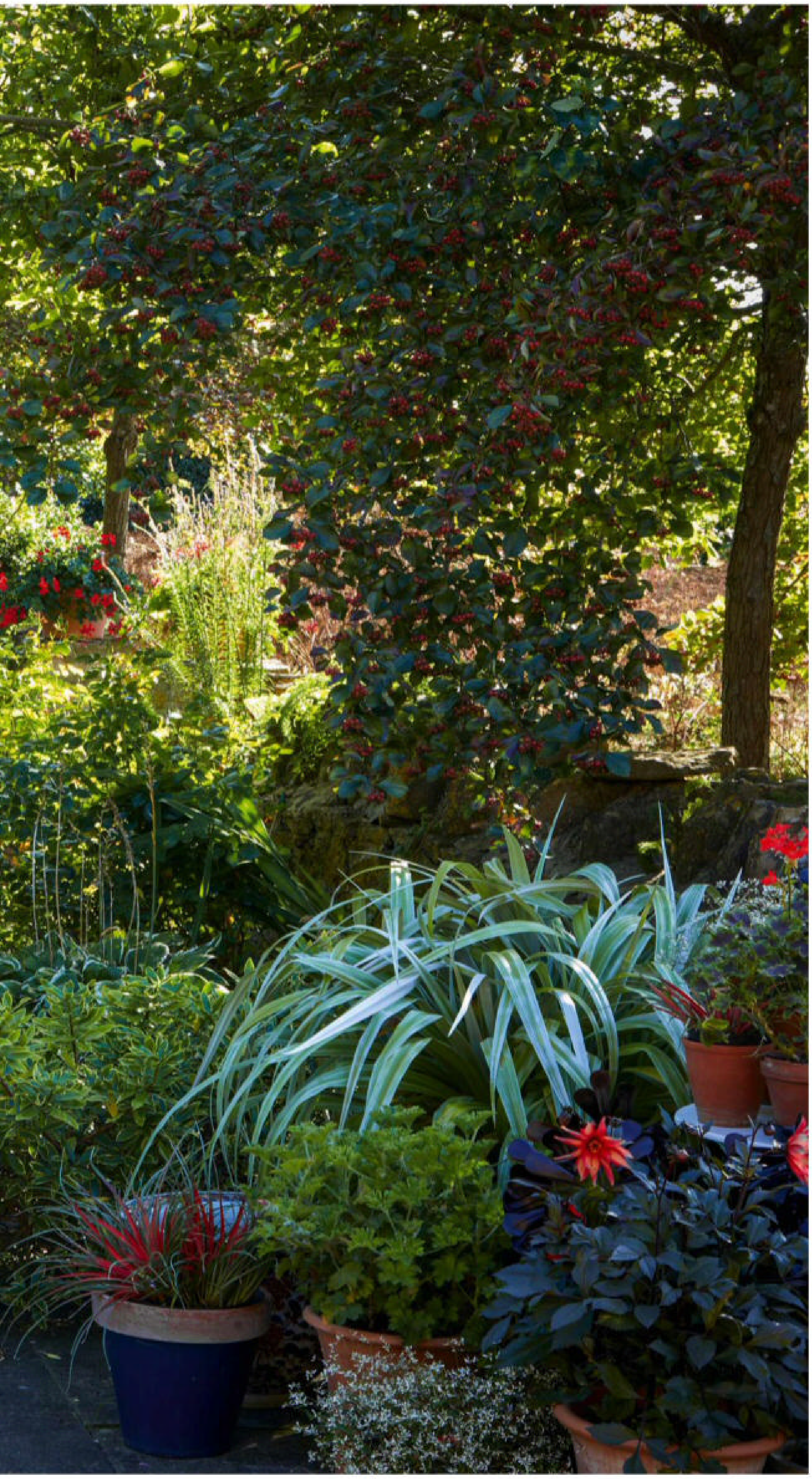


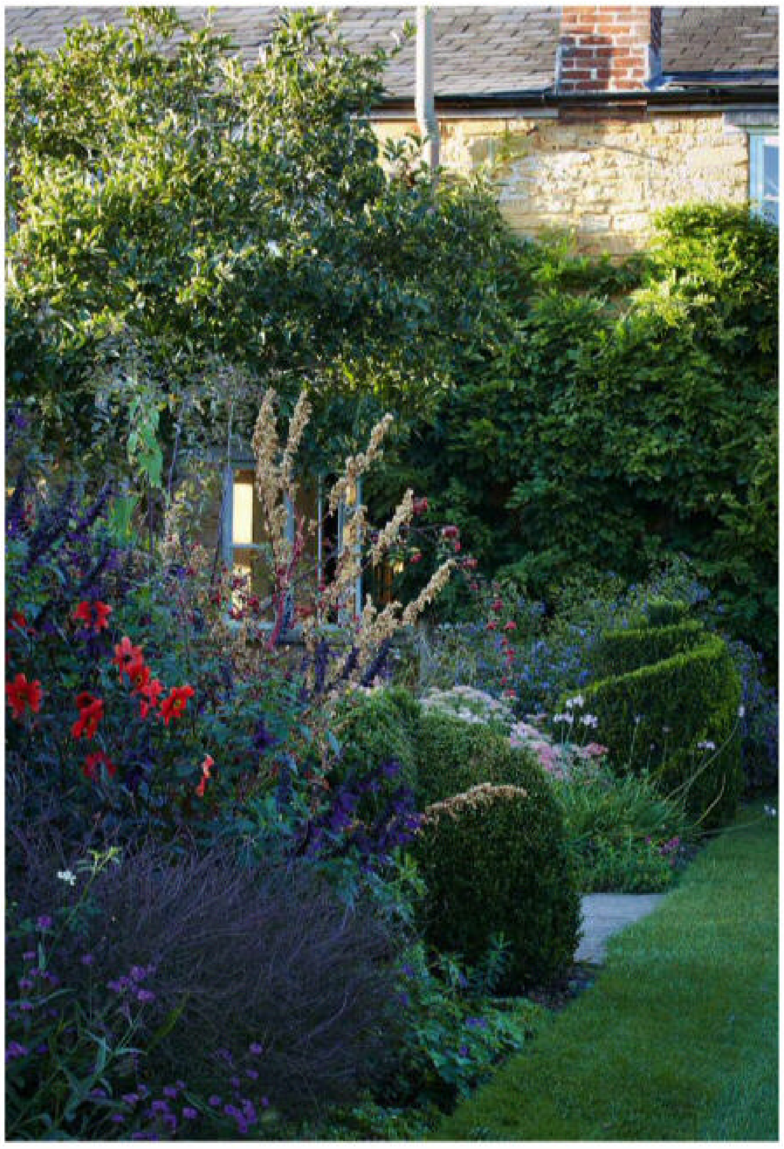
Louise continues her green theme around the terrace, with pots of sword-like *Astelia australis* punctuated by dots of red *Dahlia* 'Bishop's Children'.

▷ hedging plants all through the borders, with the aim of growing them into box balls – 26 years later and they are nearly finished." She keeps them healthy by regularly spraying with a seaweed fertiliser.

Despite having such strong ideas from the start, Louise did take some missteps. "My original idea was to have the box shapes surrounded by lots of ornamental grasses waving in the breeze, and so I planted them all over, but they were just so disappointing. I knew almost at once that it was a mistake. For five months of the year they didn't do anything and they didn't like our conditions." She dug the lot out just three years later and thought again. "I wanted architectural planting. I'm not really a flower person; it's shapes I am looking for." She particularly loves the sword-like leaves of crocosmia, the airy, filigree uprights of *Cyperus alternifolius* subsp. *flabelliformis* and the green spikes of *Eryngium agavifolium*. "If you choose perennials with good shapes, it doesn't matter if they are in flower or not. They provide structure all season long."

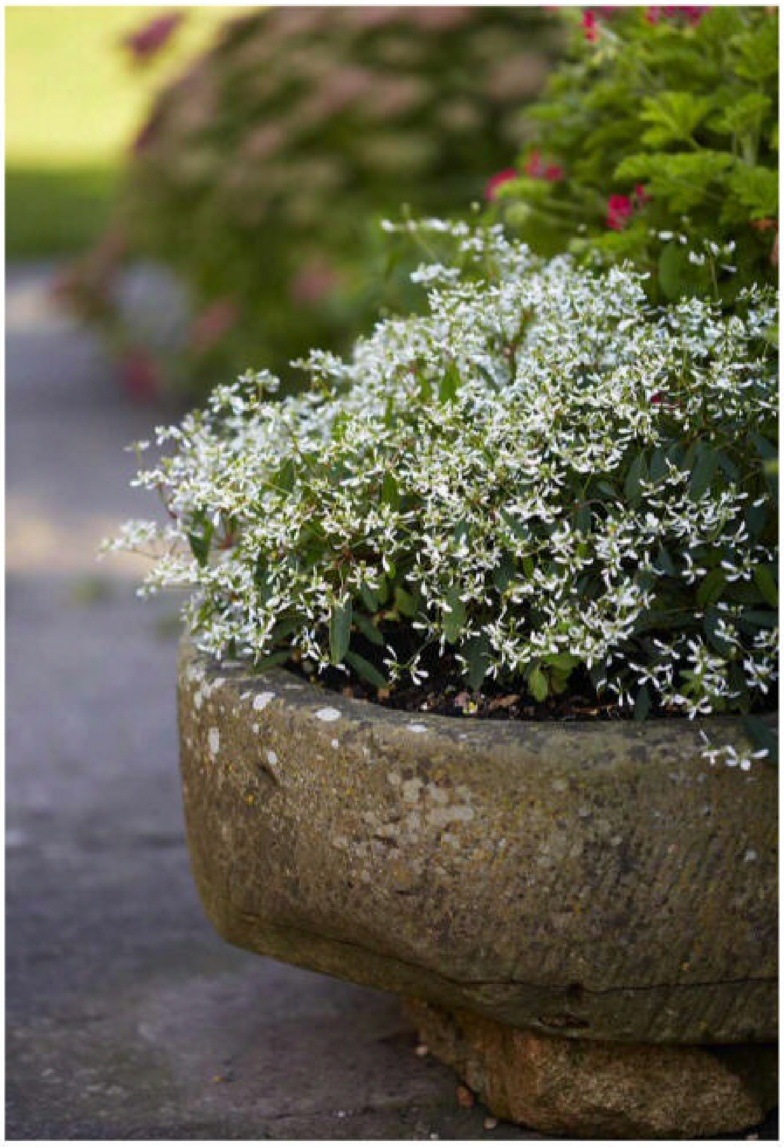
There is some colour in the garden, although Louise tends either towards bright but small pinpricks of orange and red – from *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer' and *Dahlia* 'Bishop's Children', for example – that do not threaten the green overall look, or stormy, grey-blues with the likes of *Salvia chamaedryoides* and *Verbena officinalis* var. *grandiflora* 'Bampton'. "Blues are quiet," she says. "They sit there and don't grab the attention." Which means that above all they don't distract from her beautiful box plants, the stars of the show. ▷



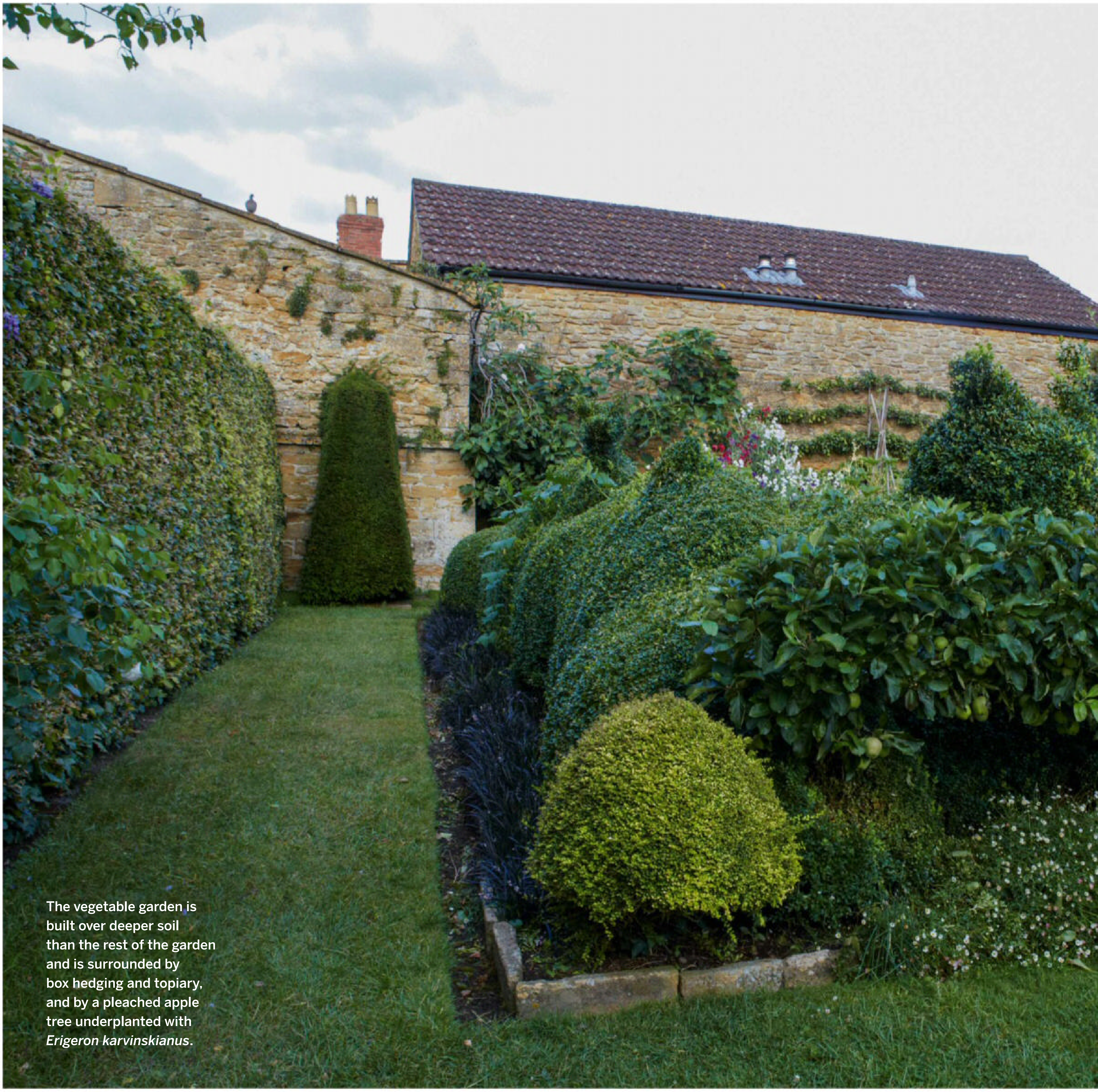


Above Although flowers are few and far between in Louise's garden, she loves moody purples, such as *Verbena officinalis* var. *grandiflora* 'Bampton', which, Louise says, are "easy to live with" and don't fight with her favoured greens.

Below *Euphorbia hypericifolia* Diamond Frost (= 'Inneuphe'), with its tiny, white, gypsophila-like flowers held on a tangle of fine, airy stems, graces one of the many planters that surround Louise's terrace.



> I wanted architectural planting. I'm not really a flower person; it's shapes I'm looking for. If you choose perennials with good shapes, it doesn't matter if they are in flower or not



The vegetable garden is built over deeper soil than the rest of the garden and is surrounded by box hedging and topiary, and by a pleached apple tree underplanted with *Erigeron karvinskianus*.

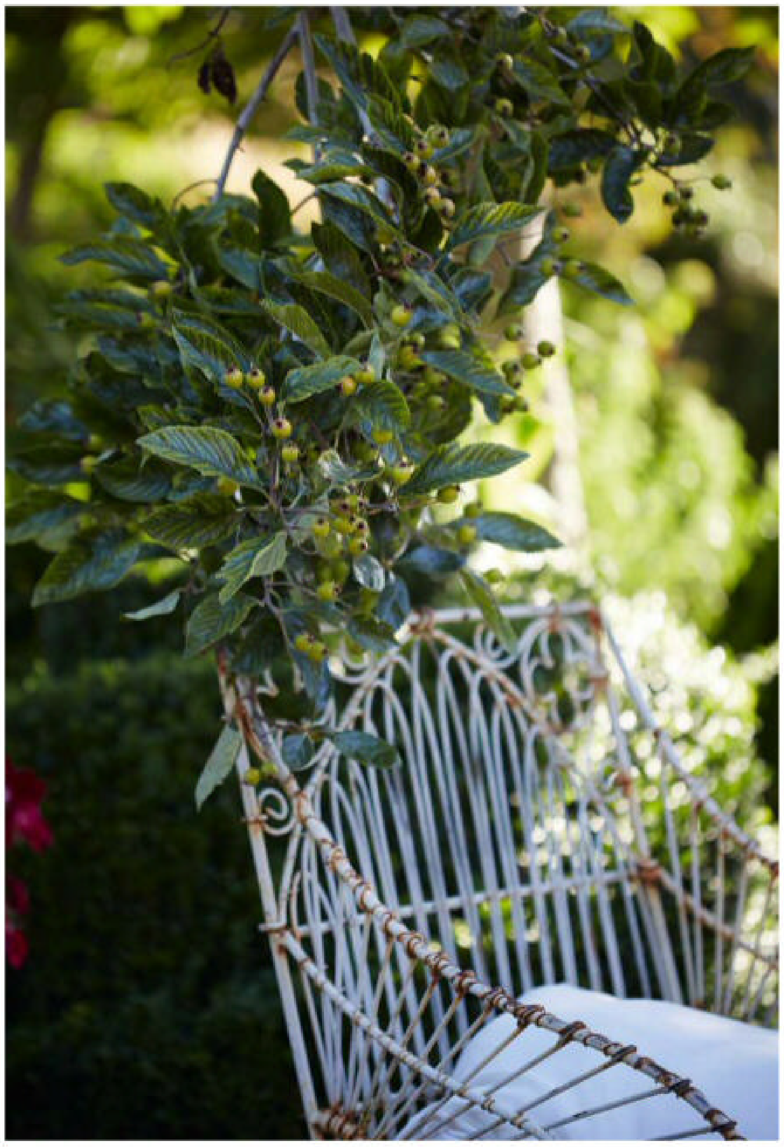
▷ The box shapes themselves have undergone a transformation as they have reached maturity, and are far more complex than she originally envisaged them. "They were box balls, and one day Fergus was looking out at them and said, 'They're so boring', and they were. They were too big and too heavy for the rest of the planting." She set about cutting them into different shapes, some into spirals and others with strong, horizontal segments, while Fergus's vegetable garden – the only part of the garden not built over the stone yard – boasts a wavy hedge topped with a parade of topiary hens and snails. "They look so much better now. The light plays on the horizontals and verticals so much more than it did when they were balls," says Louise. It is in the late summer evenings that she appreciates them the most. "All of the hard work with the box takes place in early summer. It is manic around early June, trying to get around it all. But by late summer the box is looking good and everything has filled out around it. At dusk the shapes seem to double in size and they look almost animated. They have a massive presence. I love them."□

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Yews Farm, East Street, Martock, Somerset TA12 6NF.
Tel 01935 822202.
Open 12 September, 2-5pm, for National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk); otherwise group visits for 20 or more people by arrangement (email fergus.dowding@btinternet.com).

Above The dwarf rose *Rosa* 'The Fairy, comes into flower far later than many others but once it starts, it flowers continuously through to November. Louise uses it to front the rose walk, where it doesn't dominate the planting, and weaves its blooms through adjacent plants.

Below A *Crataegus* x *lavallei* 'Carrierei' provides shade for the terrace. It's a hard-working tree. As well as offering glossy, oval leaves that turn red in late autumn and fall late, its spring blossom is loved by the bees, and followed by flame-coloured berries that cling until February.



By late summer the box is looking good and everything has filled out around it. At dusk the shapes seem to double in size and they look almost animated. They have a massive presence

HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

DAVE GOULSON

The biologist and author on environmental awareness, his switch from butterflies to bumblebees and his mission to share his love of insects with the world

WORDS **LIA LEENDERTZ** PORTRAIT **CHARLIE HOPKINSON**

As a child, Dave Goulson was so drawn to insects that he once cooked several bees. He squirms at the memory. "I was in the garden after a summer storm and spotted these bedraggled bumblebees on a wet buddleja, so I rescued them." Indoors he made them a bed of tissue and popped them on to a hotplate on the electric cooker and then, being eight years old, wandered off, only to be brought back to reality by the smell of smoke and the sound of his mother's alarmed voice. "Maybe my career has been an attempt to make up for that moment," he jokes.

Happily his curiosity and empathy for the insect world has indeed led him to atone for his early sins. Fascinated by caterpillars and butterflies, he filled his childhood bedroom with jam jars stuffed with leaves and insects (to capture "that magic as they first unfolded their wings", he says). To feed his obsession, he started a wildlife patch in a corner of his parents' Shropshire garden, planting bird's foot trefoil to encourage common blue butterflies to lay their eggs on it and lady's smock for orange-tips, learning young the link between planting natives and increasing butterfly populations.

> A LOT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE OR FOREST FIRES IN THE AMAZON, FEEL HOPELESS, BUT IN OUR GARDENS WE HAVE CONTROL

He went on to study biology at Oxford and then did a PhD on butterflies, followed by postdoctoral research. It was an afternoon sitting in a patch of flowers that made him switch his attentions from butterflies to bees. "I noticed something odd, which is that a bee will often veer away from a flower at the last second. I tried reading up on it but couldn't find anything." He spent five years unravelling this, discovering that bees will sniff each flower for the smelly footprint of a recently visiting bee. If they detect it, the flower will be empty, so they fly on. "I had always loved butterflies, but they are pretty stupid – beautiful but airheaded. Bees are really clever. I just thought that was really cool and I was hooked."

His work focuses in particular on the decline of bumblebees and what we can do about it, especially in gardens. "In the UK there are around 22 million private gardens, covering an area of nearly half a million hectares, more than all the nature reserves put together. Just imagine if those gardens were wildlife-friendly, free of pesticides, and full of wildflowers, long grass and wildlife ponds. A lot of environmental issues, such as climate change or forest fires in the Amazon, feel hopeless, but in our gardens we have control." This is the way he gardens in the two-acre plot in East Sussex that he shares with his wife and three sons. "There are loads of fruit trees, blossoming from March to the end of May, one after another. And I grow a higgledy-piggledy mix of traditional cottage garden flowers and wildflowers. It's buzzing with life," he says. Only his youngest son seems to have inherited his love of insect life and together they have set up moth traps in the garden and found more than 200 species.

It was this understanding of the importance of gardens that led him to think beyond academia. "You publish papers in scientific journals, and they're read by other academics, not the politicians or farmers or gardeners who can actually make a difference." He set up the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to undertake projects to monitor and conserve bees, but still felt as if he was preaching to the converted. Wanting to reach a bigger audience he "had a bash" at writing a popular science book. *A Sting in the Tale* was published in 2013 and was very popular, becoming a *Sunday Times* bestseller and being translated into 14 languages. "People told me it had inspired them to plant wildflowers in their garden. It felt like the most useful thing I'd ever done."

Four other popular science books about insects' fascinating lives followed, as well as the more practical *Gardening for Bumblebees*, and he is soon to publish another popular science book, *Silent Earth*, about insect decline and what we can do to address it. "This one is a bit more serious," he says, "and it feels like a summary of my life's work." He wasn't even sure whether he wanted to write it at all. "I kept wondering if anyone would want to read something that is in parts quite depressing, but as well as emphasising that we have a real crisis on our hands, I try to offer a solution. We need to feel hope to act."

He struggles with hope at times himself. "I don't think the future's terribly bright. I think we know that this horrible, interconnected series of environmental disasters is going to unfold – climate change, biodiversity loss, soil erosion, pollution, overfishing and deforestation – none of which we're doing enough about. So life is going to be very hard for future generations. But anything we do now to improve the situation will help. Making our gardens wildlife-friendly is an easy win. And the results are glorious. We'd be crazy not to do it." ❑

USEFUL INFORMATION

Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse is published by Jonathan Cape, price £20.

Top tips for growing hardy annuals

#1 *"The key to sowing seed direct is to start with a clean seedbed, removing any competition the seedlings may face. I like to sow in blocks of short, straight drills as this makes it easier to tell what's wanted and what isn't. Sow thinly and be ruthless with thinning out; plants will be much healthier if they have adequate room to grow." JENNY BARNES*

THE BEST HARDY ANNUALS TO SOW NOW

The spring seed-sowing window may have closed, but for the gardener Vita Sackville-West, sowing in open ground in late summer and early autumn was better by far. 'The resultant plants will be sturdier and will come into flower earlier than those we sow in the spring,' she wrote. Three modern plantswomen offer their own suggestions of the best hardy annuals – from short-lived geraniums and cheerful poppies to native clover and bee-friendly borage – to sow now and get ahead for a strong summer display next year

Jenny Barnes

Jenny is head gardener at Cottesbrooke Hall, Northamptonshire. She has a particular interest in roses and a sculptural pruning technique.

1 *Eschscholzia californica* 'Apricot Chiffon' (Thai Silk Series)
Californian poppies thrive even in the poorest of soils, providing clouds of feathery, blue-grey foliage topped with masses of single and double flowers, tinged apricot-coral. Keep deadheading and it will flower until the first frosts. 50cm. AGM*. RHS H3†.

2 *Crepis rubra*
This member of the daisy family looks like a beautiful, pink dandelion. Pale blooms on wiry stems are held above tight rosettes of grey-green leaves. It is drought-tolerant, and prefers full sun and good drainage. A great choice for gravel gardens. 30cm. RHS H6.

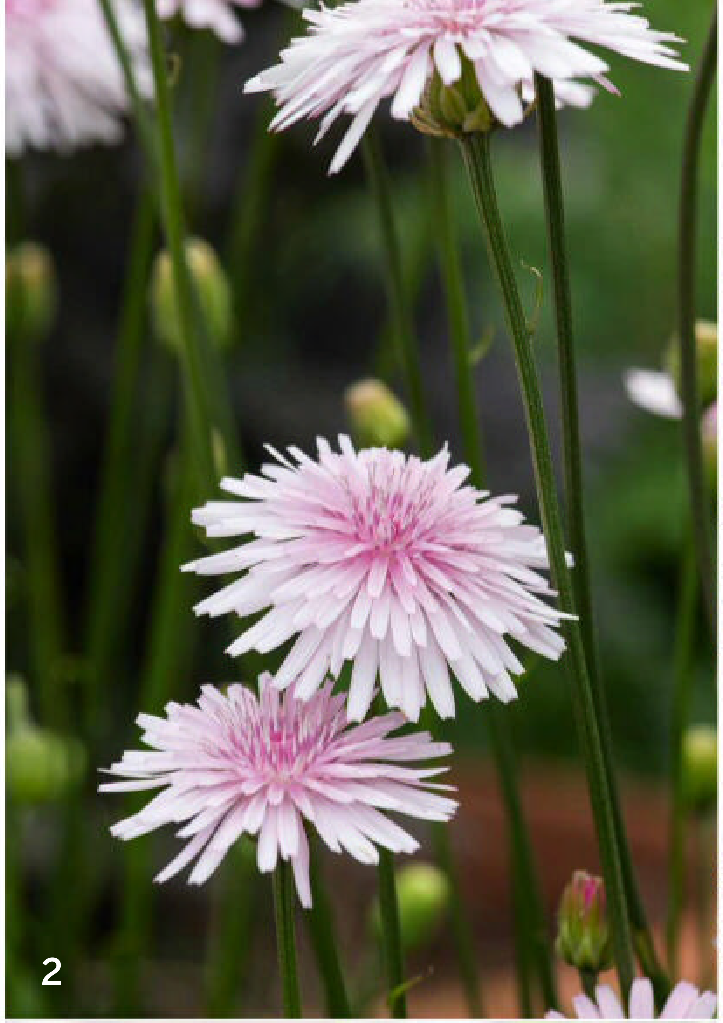
3 *Nigella orientalis* 'Transformer'
A quirky, long-lasting, cut flower. Seedpods look equally as good dried. Wispy, fern-like foliage with tiny, yellow-green flowers that peel back to expose an elongated seedhead reminiscent of a jester's hat. 40cm. RHS H3.

4 *Nigella papillosa* 'African Bride'
A dramatic love-in-a-mist with unusual, black seedpods surrounded by a white ruff of petals and deep-purple anthers. It looks delicate but is as tough as old boots. Beloved by bees, it is a great addition to borders or wildflower meadows. 55-70cm. RHS H3.

5 *Brassica oleracea* (Acephala Group) 'Redbor'
I love to mix edible plants with ornamentals, and the ruffled, plum-coloured foliage of this kale looks fantastic with orange calendula or nasturtiums. Stands well through winter and when it runs to seed in spring, offers another dimension with a plume of yellow flowers. 60cm. AGM. USDA 2a-11.

6 *Gypsophila elegans* 'Kermesina'
Airy sprays of tiny, pink, star-shaped flowers held on branching stems. Sow these to twinkle through the border or use as cut flowers. The poorer the soil, the more flowers you will have, so refrain from fertilising. Plants will self-seed freely. 50cm. RHS H5.

7 *Agrostemma githago* 'Ocean Pearl'
Large, white flowers with gold stitching in the throat. Long, willowy stems require support, so grow between existing perennials and let it scramble. Plants will cross-pollinate, so sow fresh each year to maintain the pure-white form. 60cm. RHS H5. ▷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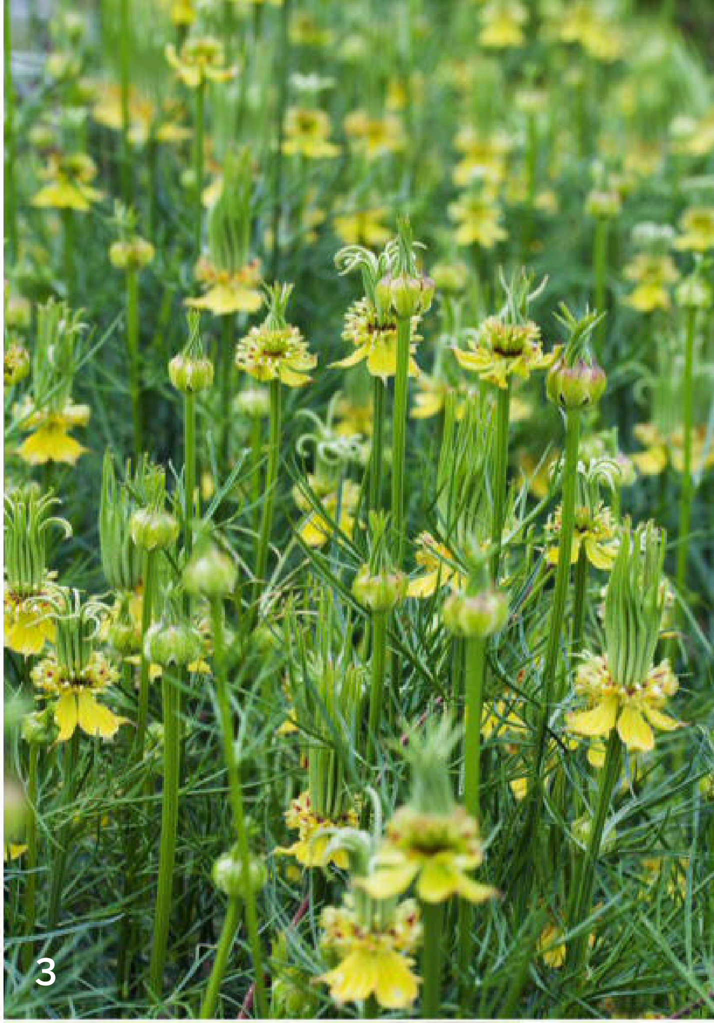
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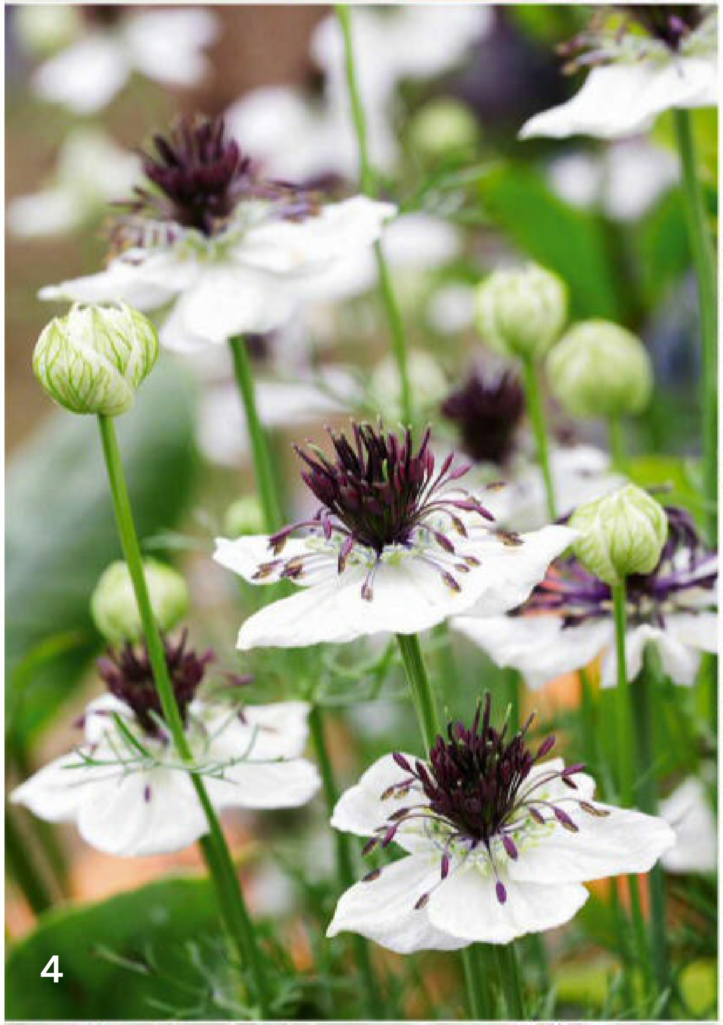
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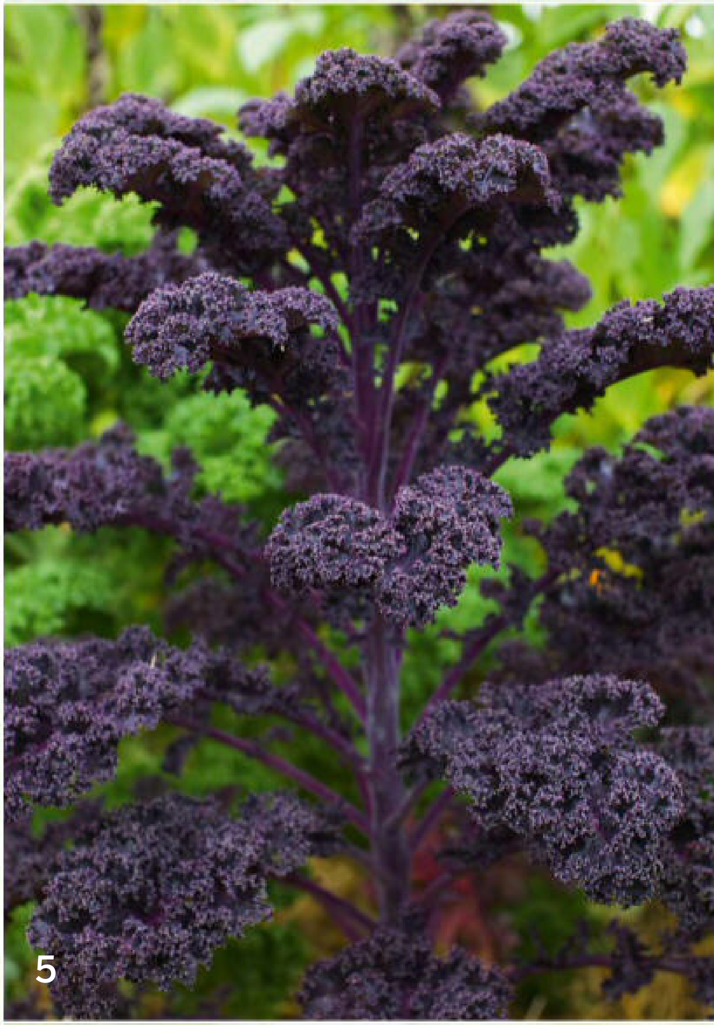
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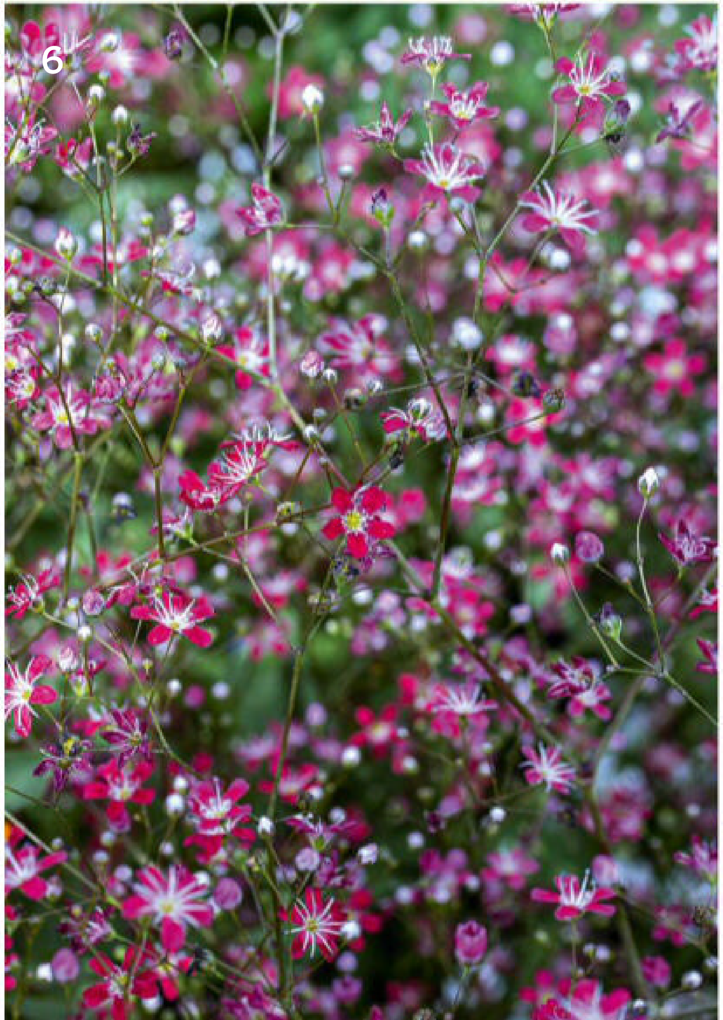
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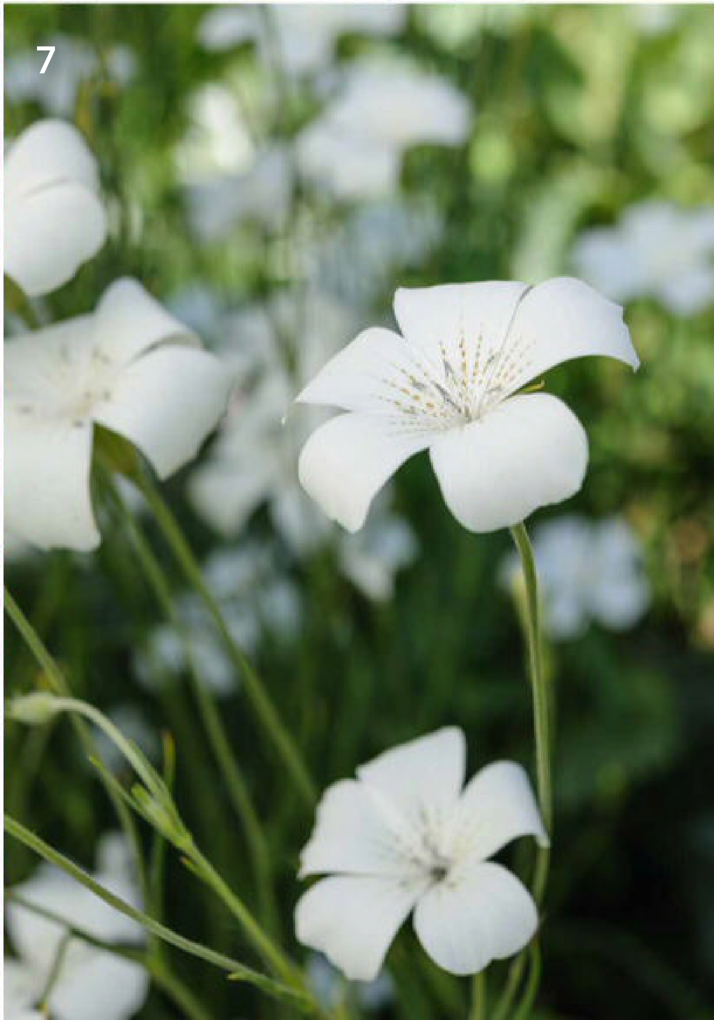
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HEAD SHOT BY RICHARD BLOOM 1 EVGENIYA VLASOVA / GAP PHOTOS, 2 TIM GAINEY / GAP PHOTOS, 3 TREVOR SIMS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES, 4 CLARE GAINEY / GAP PHOTOS, 5 PERNILLA BERGDAHL / GAP PHOTOS, 6 TREVOR SIMS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES, 7 JASON INGRAM

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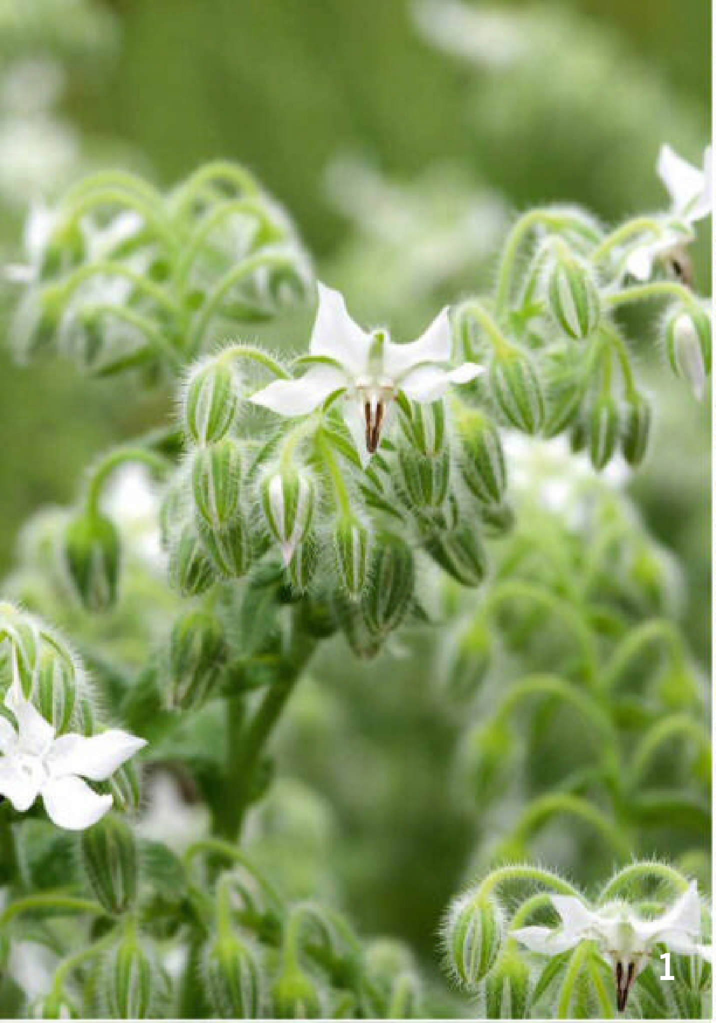
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.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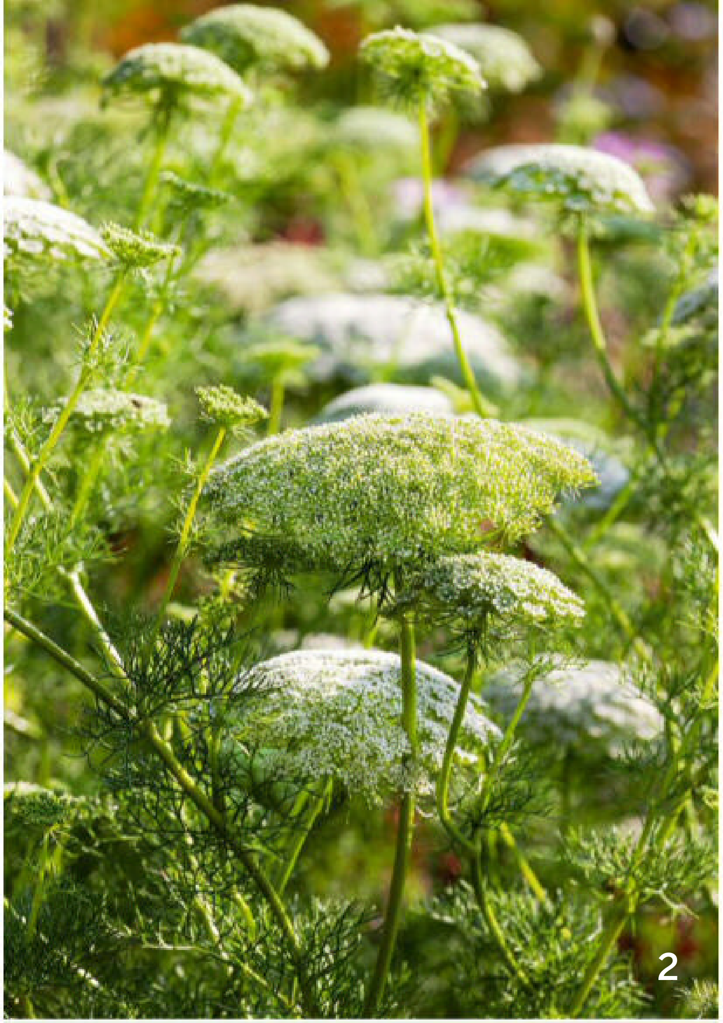
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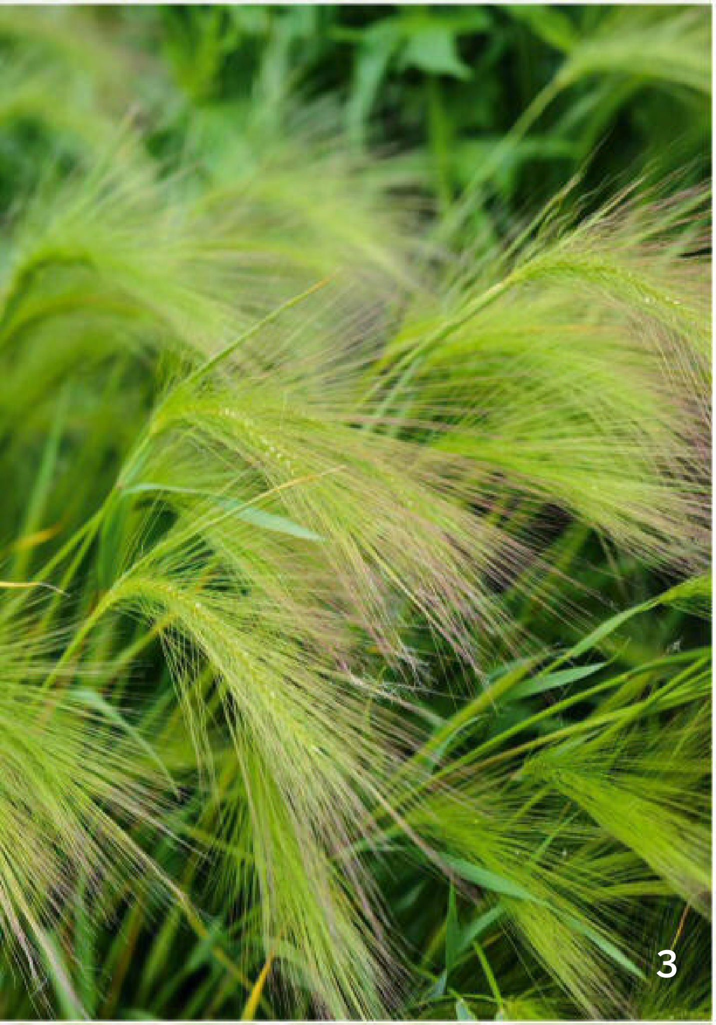
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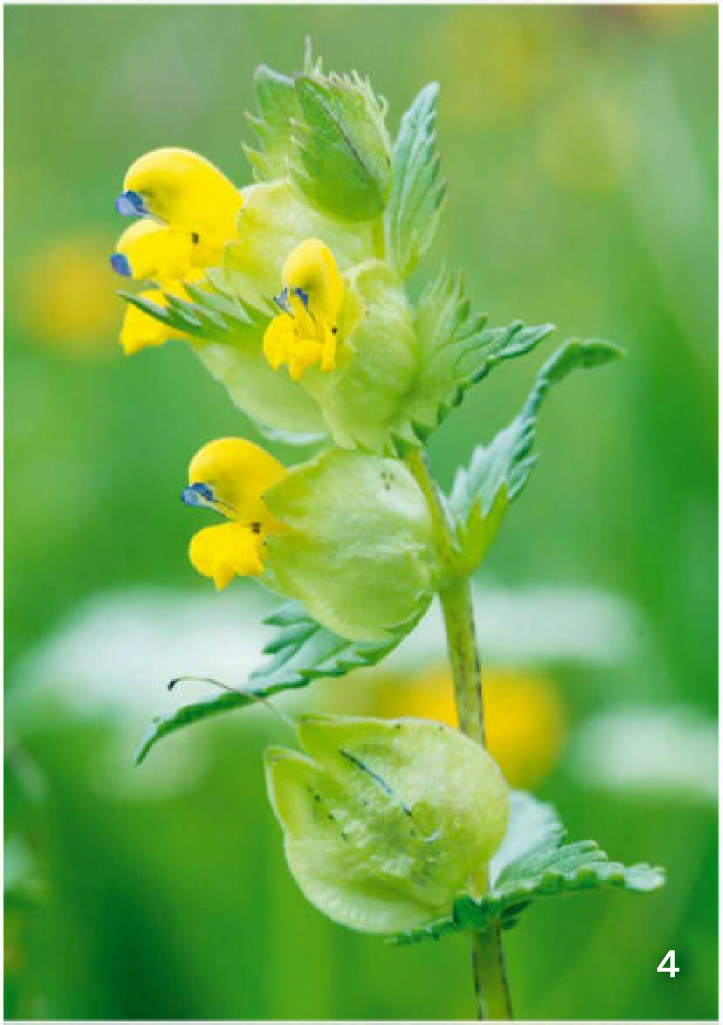
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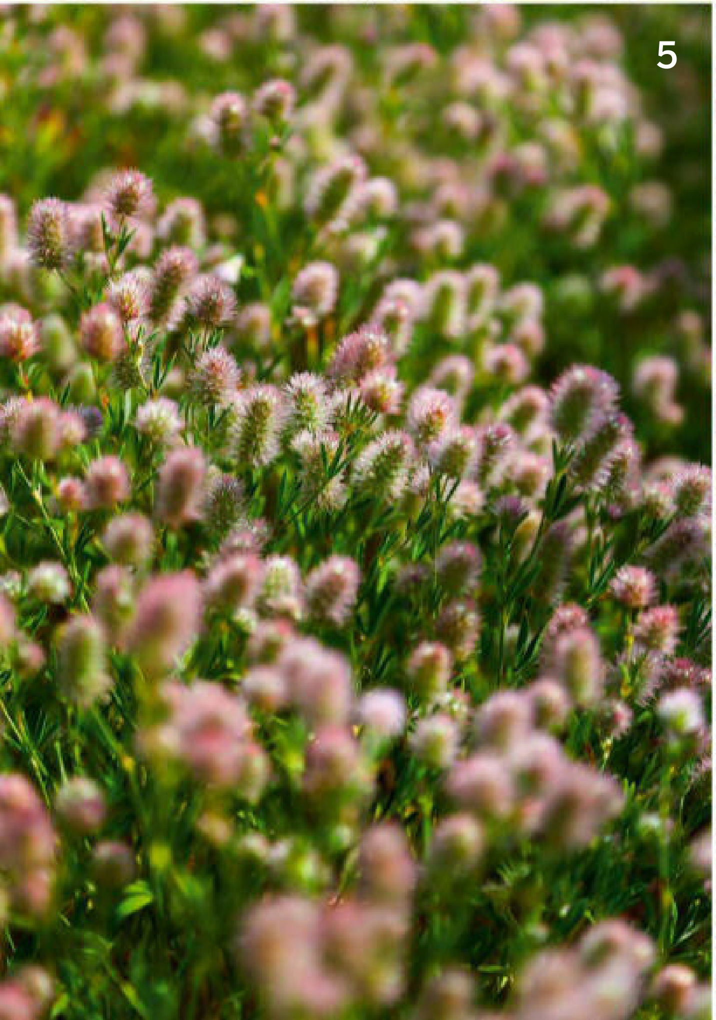
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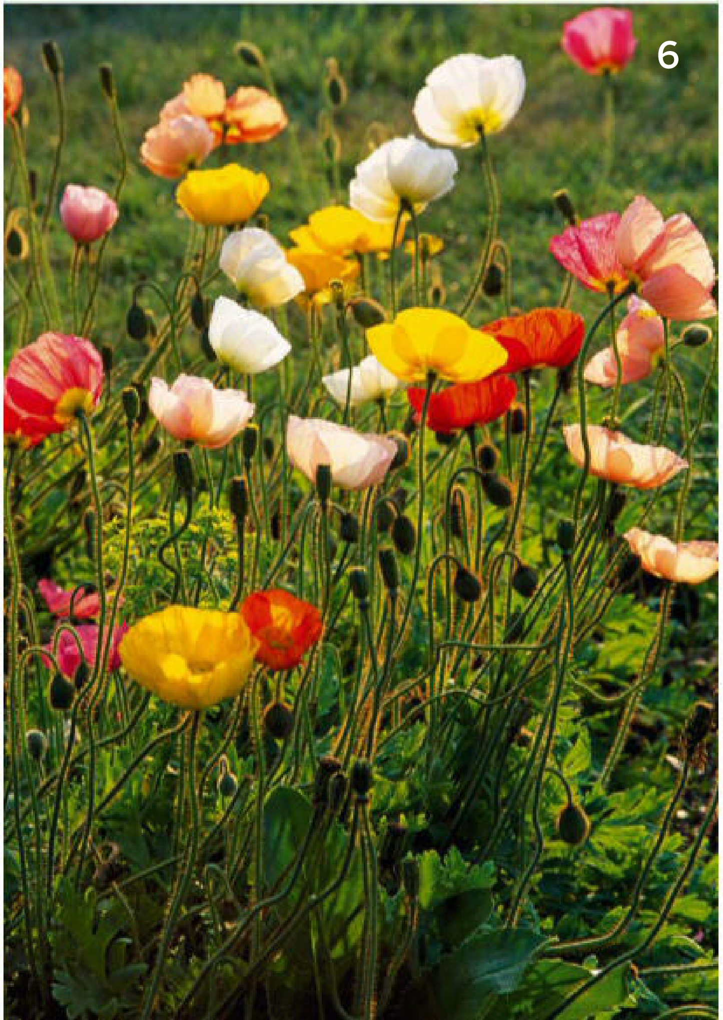
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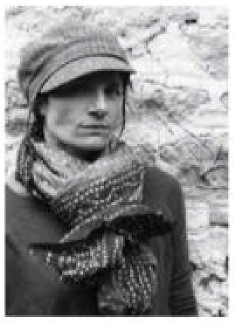


Hannah Gardner

Hannah is a widely travelled horticulturist and garden writer. She is currently head gardener at Blackland House, an organic garden and flower farm in Wiltshire.

1 *Borago officinalis* 'Alba'
Both the young leaves and white flowers of this fast-growing annual are edible, and bees love the nectar-rich flowers. Sow 1cm deep and at three to four weeks, thin to 25cm spacing. Deadhead after flowering to avoid an invasion of seedlings. 75cm. RHS H5.

2 *Visnaga daucoides* 'Green Mist'
A great textural 'filler' with large flowerheads in versatile, lime-green/white tones. Good for cutting and attractive to pollinators. Just cover seeds lightly. Germination takes seven to 21 days. Thin to 20cm and consider twig supports as required. 1.2m. RHS H6.

3 *Hordeum jubatum*
This eye-catching, early annual grass provides movement and texture. Feathery, silver seedheads are held on arching stems and tinge pink with age. Ideal for cutting and drying as well as providing a low-level foil for later perennials. It does, however, require some moisture. 60cm. AGM. RHS H6.

4 *Rhinanthus minor*
A semi-parasitic native that gets its nutrition from grasses. A useful addition to any wildflower meadow, establishing a transient dominance in different areas. Its flowers form attractive, rattling, papery seedheads. Seed viability is short so it should be sown fresh in autumn. 50cm. RHS H5.

5 *Trifolium arvense*
A dainty, native clover with fluffy, ovoid flowerheads and narrow, elongated, divided leaves. Thrives in sunny, open places on light soils. Best sown in autumn as the tough seed coat needs time to soften. 30cm. RHS H6.

6 *Papaver nudicaule*
Abundant, lightly scented blooms make this cheerful poppy an excellent cut flower. Truly a short-lived perennial poppy, it flowers in the first year from an August sowing. It resents transplanting, but you can get away with using modules. 50cm. RHS H7.

7 *Briza maxima*
A simple but showy ornamental grass that freshens borders and fills gaps in spring. Shimmering, nodding spikelets dry to burnished gold as the season progresses. Also works well sown in modules. It will seed freely, but its zingy foliage is easily spotted and pulled out. 45cm. RHS H6. ▷

1 HEATHER EDWARDS / GAP PHOTOS, 2 NOVA PHOTO GRAPH K / GAP PHOTOS, 3 JASON NGRAM, 4 AD. FLETCHER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, 5 JOHN KEATES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, 6 HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS, 7 FLOWERPHOTOS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

7

Top tips for growing hardy annuals

#2

"Sowing in late summer/autumn into warm soil gives hardy annuals a head start, but you need to ensure the soil is kept moist from pre-sowing to emergence. It is ideal to rake until the soil is crumbly and then sow after rainfall. If it's dry, you should thoroughly irrigate the areas beforehand and then water the seed in, using a watering can and rose." HANNAH GARDNER

Top tips for growing hardy annuals

#3

"Many plants are very adaptable, happy to be annuals if sown in the spring, or biennials if sown in late summer. I sow in plugs or small pots and plant the seedlings out when they are 5-7cm tall. Leave the seedheads on your plants and let them get on with the job of sowing for next year. They may be annuals or short-lived, but they should stay with you for many years." DERRY WATKINS

WHERE TO BUY

Recommended hardy annual seed suppliers

- **Chiltern Seeds**
  Tel 01491 824675,
  chilternseeds.co.uk
- **Higgledy Garden**
  higgledygarden.com
- **Plants of Distinction**
  plantsofdistinction.co.uk
- **Sarah Raven**
  Tel 0345 092 0283,
  sarahraven.com
- **Seedaholic**
  seedaholic.com
- **Special Plants**
  Tel 01225 891686,
  specialplants.net

Derry Watkins

Author and plantsperson
Derry is the owner of Special Plants Nursery in Wiltshire, where she grows unusual plants from all over the world.

1 *Oenothera lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies'
This hardy perennial can also be grown as an annual in the UK, being susceptible to the wet. A beautiful and graceful plant, it gets its name from its fluttering, white flowers. For the best results, sow in autumn and overwinter in a cold frame or with shelter from rain. 80cm. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

2 *Papaver somniferum* single white-flowered
Poppies are the divas of the June garden. Elegant and luxurious, they tower over many perennials. This icy, laundry-white form shines out across the garden. If you grow only one cultivar, the following year's self-seeded plants should all be the same. 1.2m. RHS H5.

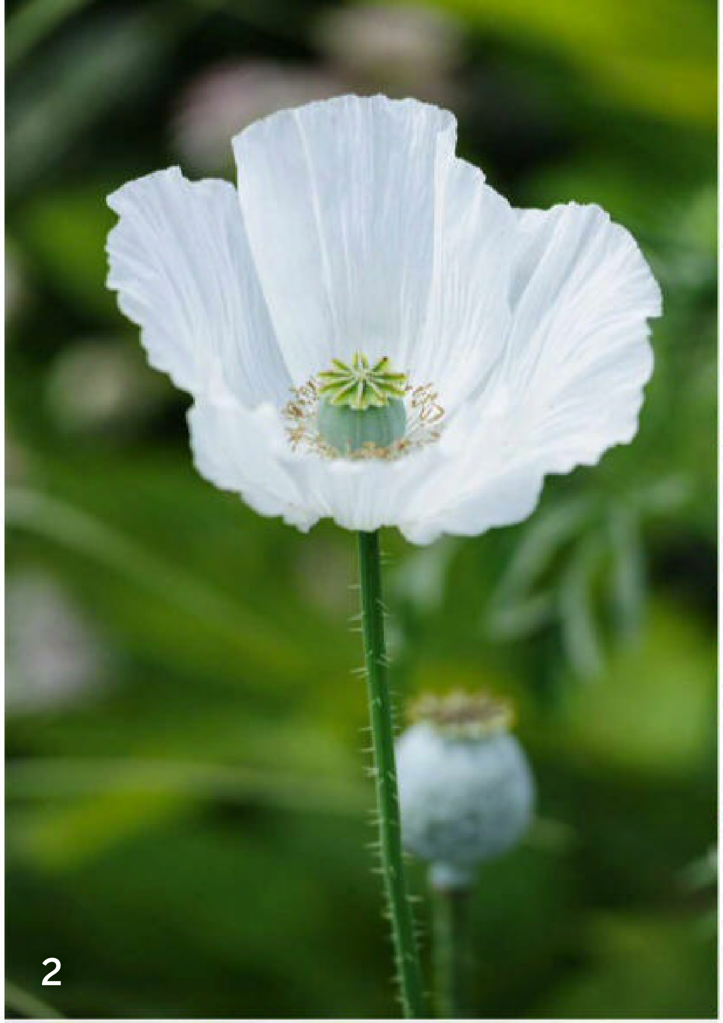
3 *Nemophila menziesii* 'Penny Black'
Forms a low, creeping mound of svelte, black flowers outlined in white. It self-seeds but not as aggressively as its yellow cousin, the poached egg plant. Sow some more in March to start blooming as the summer-sown plants fade. 15cm. RHS H5.

4 *Geranium pyrenaicum* 'Bill Wallis'
Technically a short-lived perennial, this geranium will flower the following summer if sown outside in autumn (it needs cold to germinate). It will self-seed happily, weaving its way through the border with a billow of tiny, intensely violet flowers. 30cm. RHS H6.

5 *Omphalodes linifolia*
Produces a delicate cloud of pure-white, forget-me-not-shaped flowers from April through June. It likes the sunniest and driest of positions and will self-seed there year after year, making a mound of fine, blue-grey foliage. 40cm. AGM. RHS H3.

6 *Salvia viridis* 'Marble Arch Blue'
Grown not for its flowers, but for its bracts, which look like soft-blue leaves and remain long after the tiny flowers have fallen. 40cm. RHS H5.

7 *Nicotiana mutabilis*
An aptly named plant whose airy clouds of flowers change colour from white to pink. It can act as an annual or biennial. Autumn-sown seeds will form towering plants in summer, but you will have to protect the young plants from slugs, so they are best grown in a cold frame. 1.5m. RHS H2. ❑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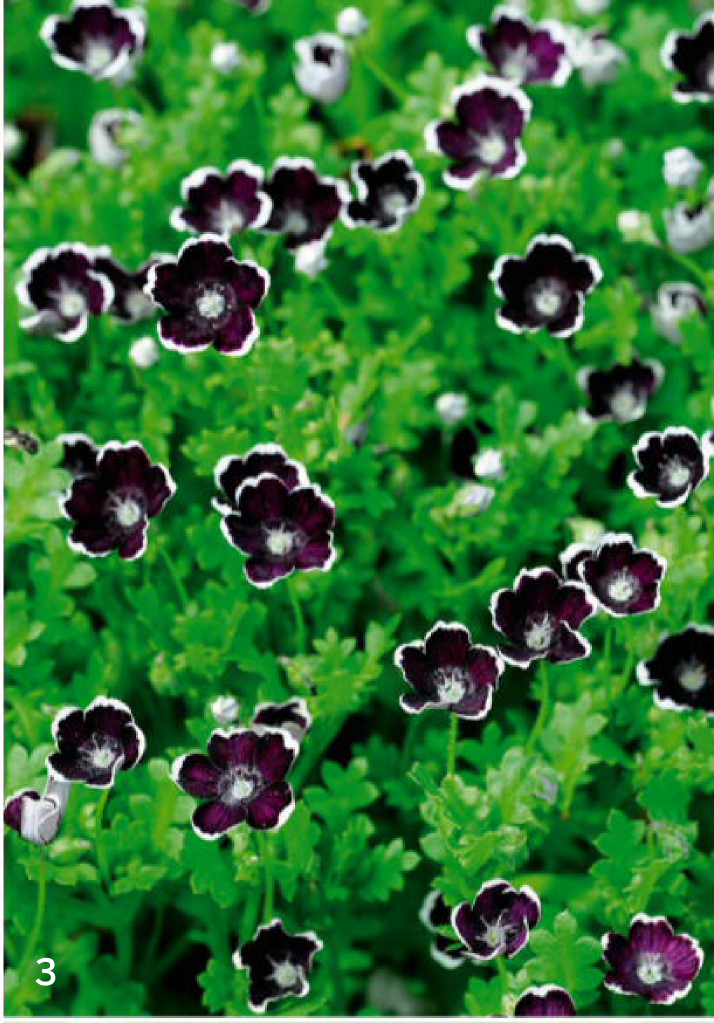
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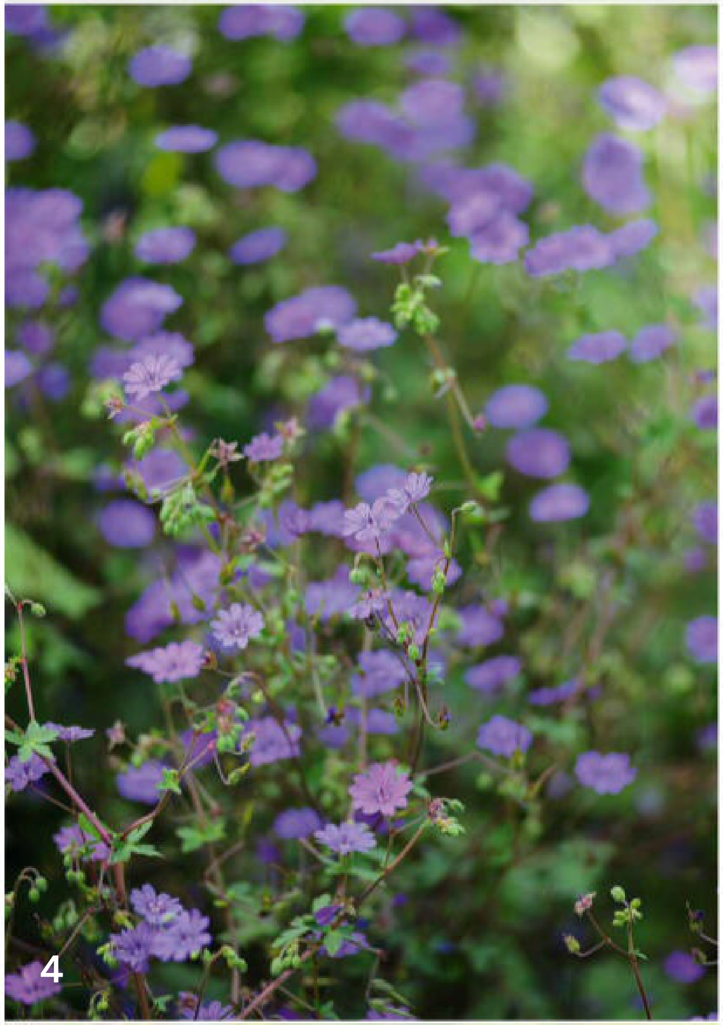
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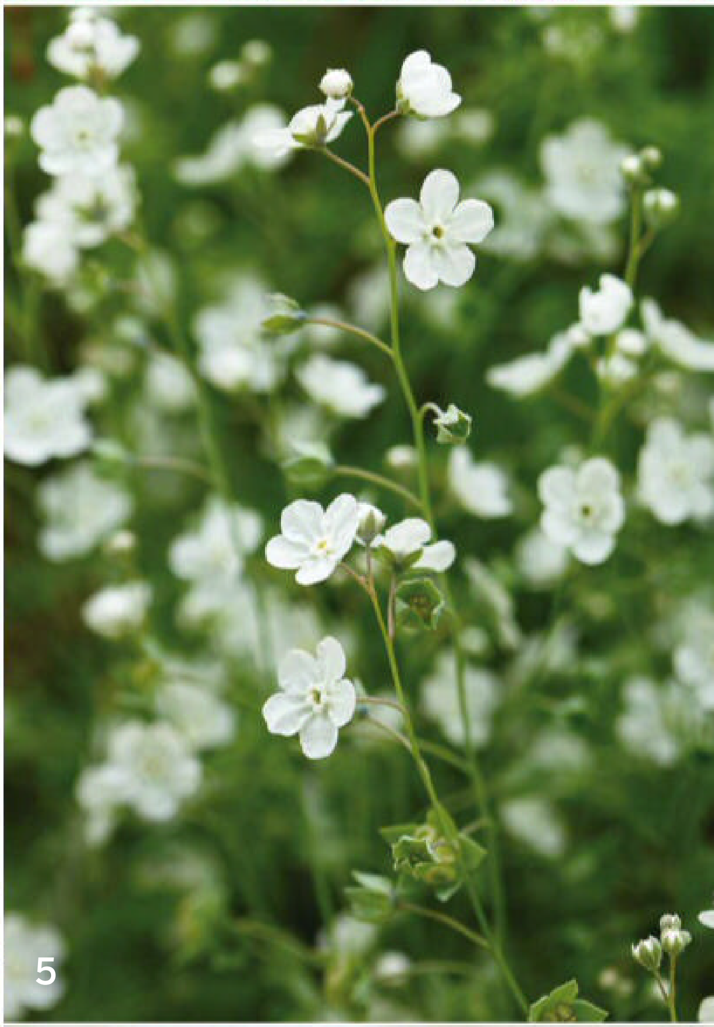
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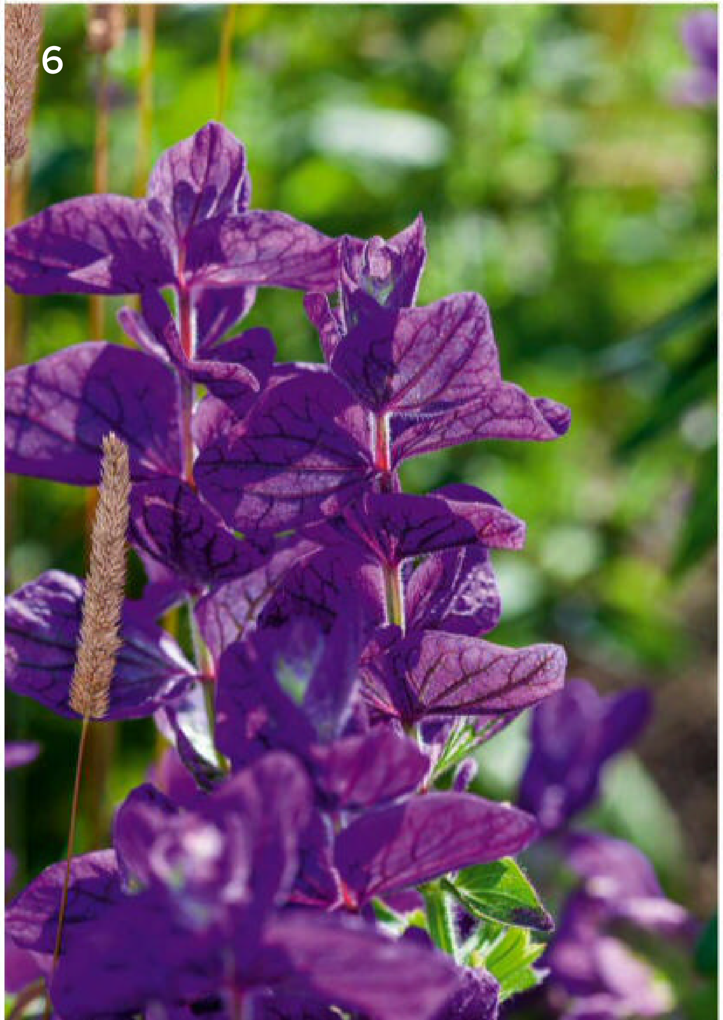
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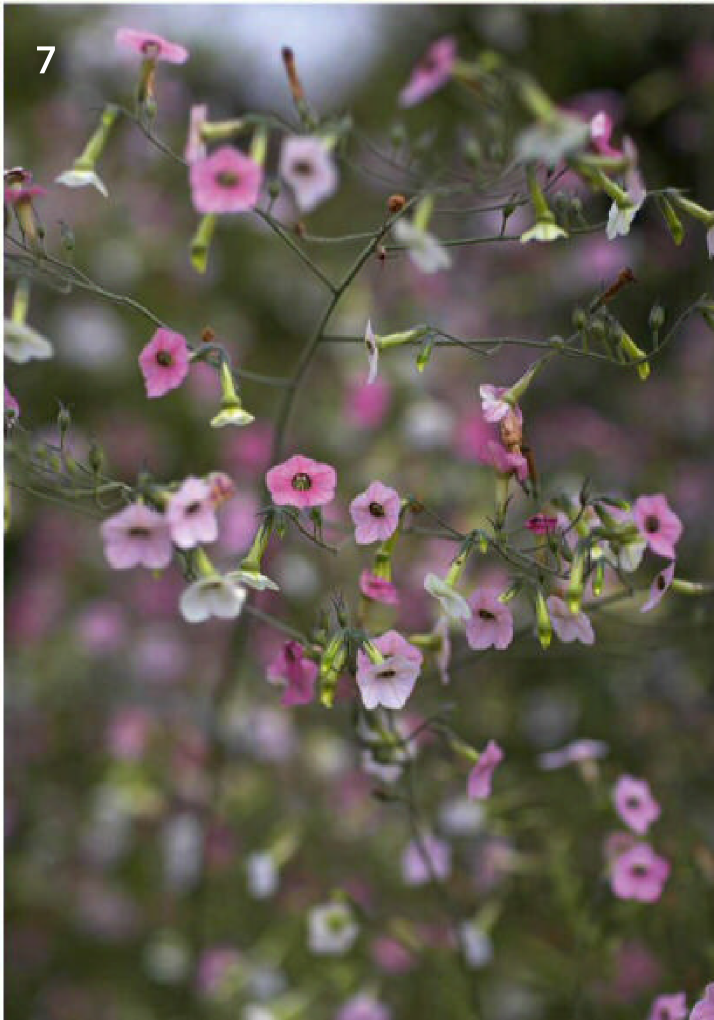
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Stroke still shatters lives and tears families apart. And for so many survivors the road to recovery is still long and desperately lonely. If you or someone you love has been affected by stroke – you'll know just what that means.

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or email legacy@stroke.org.uk
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SMALL GARDENS

From Zen-like tranquillity (Bristol fashion) to a compact space that's big on features, our five small gardens represent the best in thoughtful, original design

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Family space for fun, games and memorable moments **page 80**

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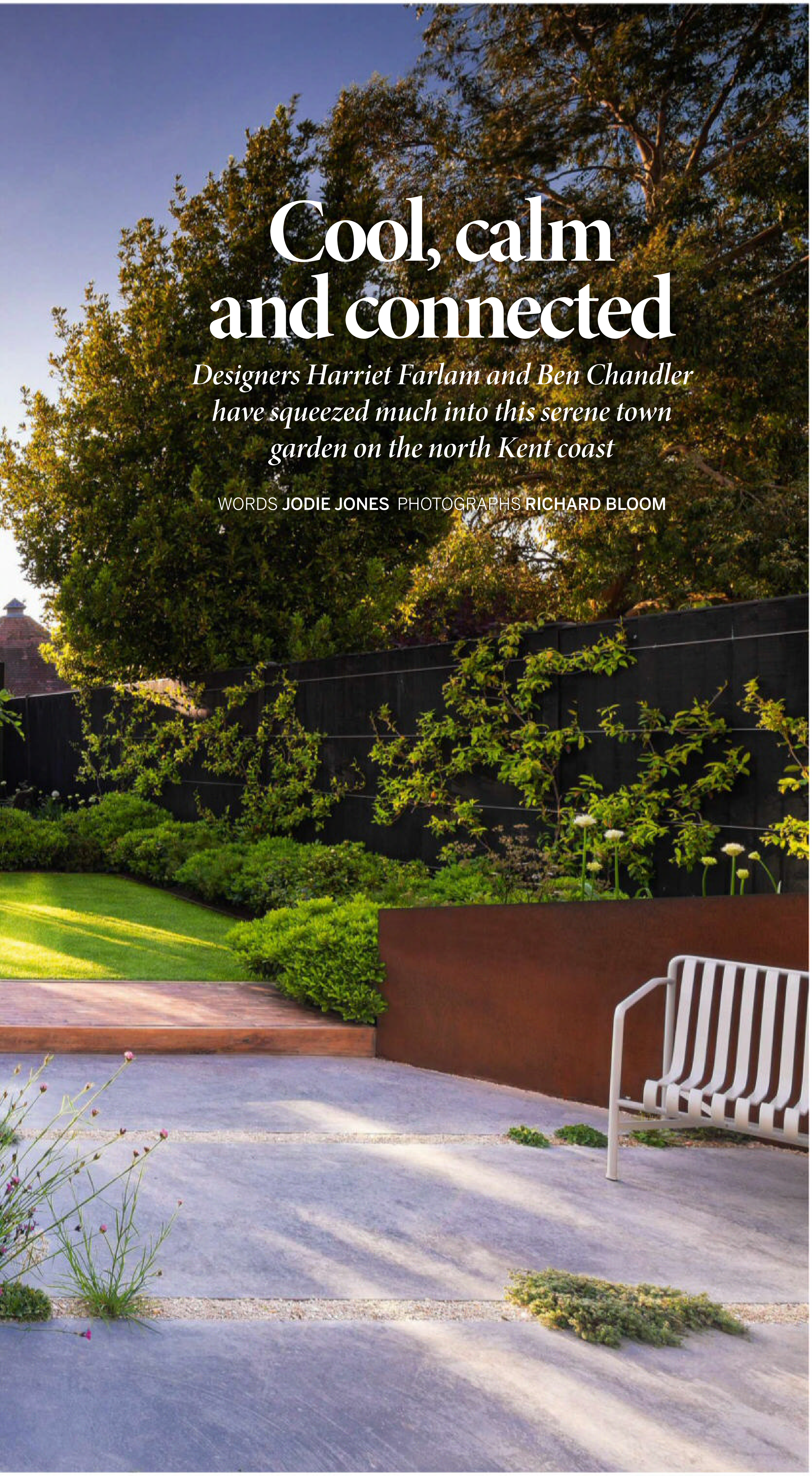
RICHARD BLOOM, JASON INGRAM



Cool, calm and connected

Designers Harriet Farlam and Ben Chandler have squeezed much into this serene town garden on the north Kent coast

WORDS **JODIE JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**

KEY ELEMENTS

What Private family garden.
Where Whitstable, Kent.
Size 20m x 7.5m.
Soil Whitstable clay, improved to a depth of 40cm.
Aspect Southeast-facing.
Special features Garden studio, outdoor shower.
Designed by Farlam & Chandler (farlamandchandler.com).

It's not unusual for a garden to be redesigned after a house has been extended, but it is very unusual for both interior and exterior work to be carried out by the homeowners themselves. "This was quite a special project, because our clients were every bit as committed to getting the details right as we were," says Harriet Farlam of the small town garden that she and partner Ben Chandler have transformed with a design of great poise and polish.

Tucked behind a tiny, listed cottage in Whitstable, on the north Kent coast, the garden runs out from a contemporary extension that has clearly been created for a family that relishes the outdoor life on offer in this magical location. Sliding panels of plate glass mean the whole back of the house can be opened up whenever the weather allows, and polished concrete floors run seamlessly from inside out on to a terrace.

"Our brief was to create a really usable garden, with lots of space for entertaining, as well as a lawn for play and a private terrace next to the garden studio at the rear," says Harriet. "Like their interiors, which are really smart but unfussy, the clients wanted stylish but low-maintenance planting, and an outdoor shower to wash away the sand after a day on the beach."

It was an awful lot to fit into a garden measuring just 20m x 7.5m and in lesser hands could easily have felt uncomfortably cramped, but Harriet and Ben have managed to wrangle that long wish list into a serene and practical design. "We did have to squeeze the space to death, but it ▷

This small but elegant seaside garden faces southeast and in the early morning, as the sun rises above its boundary, the space is dramatically brought to life by slanting beams of light, which highlight the contrasting textures of velvety grass lawn and polished concrete terrace.

It's a common mistake to think that small features will look better in a small garden, when the opposite is usually true

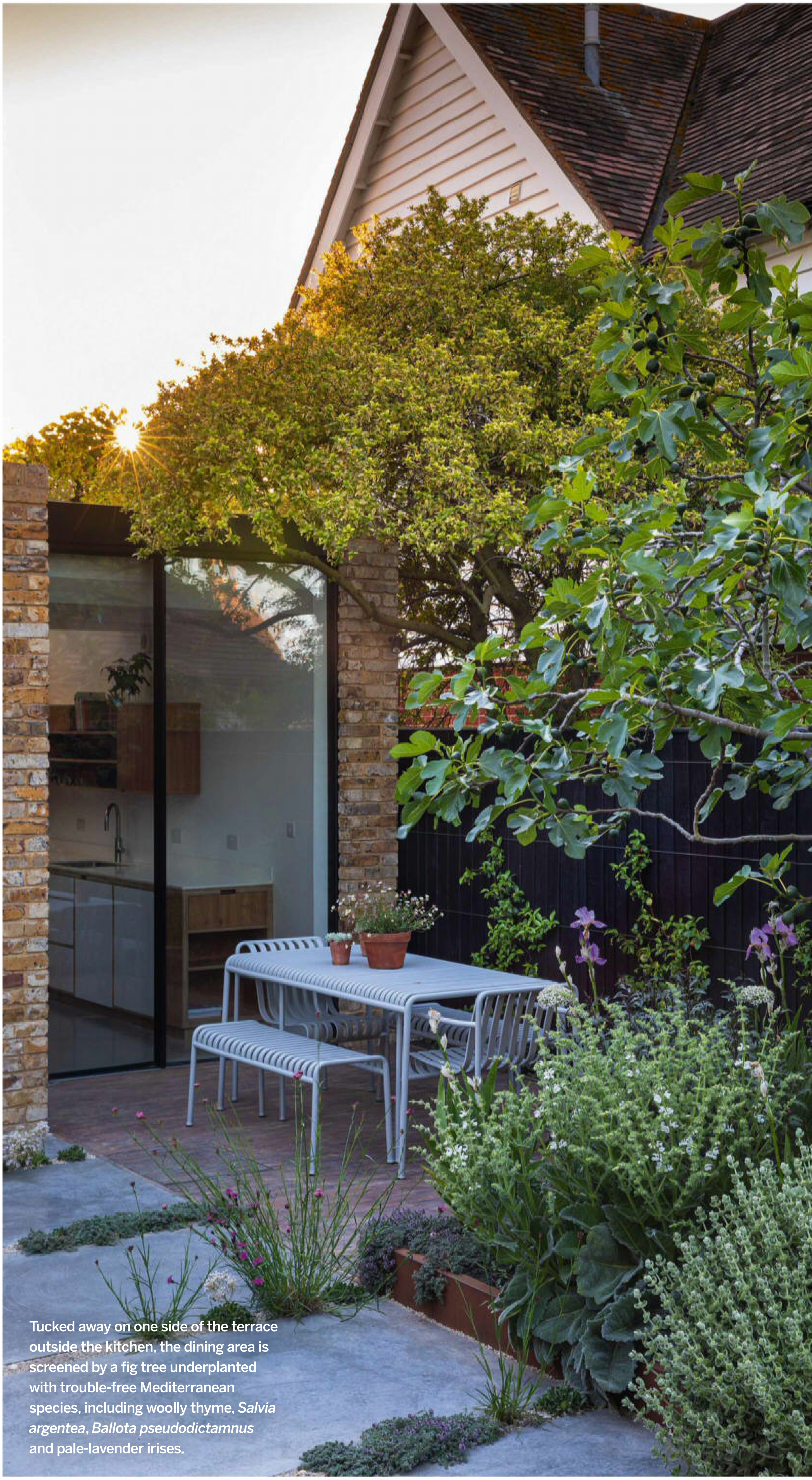
▷ has ended up feeling really calm," agrees Harriet. Behind this successful sleight of hand lies the creative deployment of a series of tried-and-tested techniques.

First, the main elements, including the lawn and terrace, are all relatively large. "It's a common mistake to think that small features will look better in a small garden, when in fact the opposite is usually true," says Harriet.

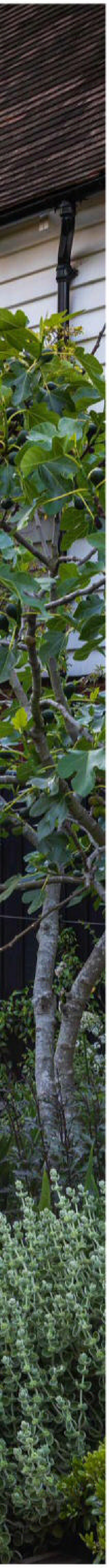
Second, the palette has been restricted to a predominantly green planting scheme combined with warm hard-landscaping materials. The fences have been painted rich black to echo the frame of the new house extension, and will in any case soon disappear under a mass of glossy green star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*). The glass-fronted studio at the bottom of the garden is partially veiled by a spectacular multi-stemmed hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and the lawn is enclosed by a simple cloud hedge of naturally low-growing *Pittosporum tobira* studded with dwarf pine (*Pinus mugo*).

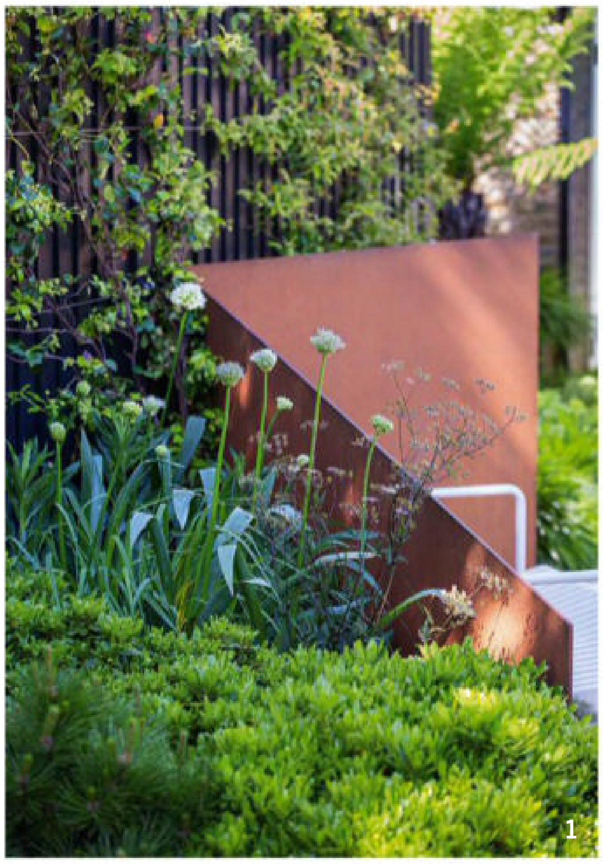
Finally, the design creates a suggestion of interlinking 'garden rooms' by cutting across the width of this narrow space with a series of strong, horizontal elements. These include strips of crushed shell studded with thyme and saxifrage that have been set into the terrace, two timber-framed raised beds filled with an ornamental mix of Mediterranean plants and a pair of rusted Corten steel screens that zig-zag towards the heart of the garden. "Actually those steel fins are not just decorative," says Harriet. "The one closest to the house hides a really awkward change in ground level, and the one at the end encloses the outdoor shower."

It is this clever combination of form and function that sets Farlam & Chandler's design apart, but it is the immaculate realisation of that design by their talented clients that elevates this garden from the home-made into something very special indeed. ☐



Tucked away on one side of the terrace outside the kitchen, the dining area is screened by a fig tree underplanted with trouble-free Mediterranean species, including woolly thyme, *Salvia argentea*, *Ballota pseudodictamnus* and pale-lavender irises.





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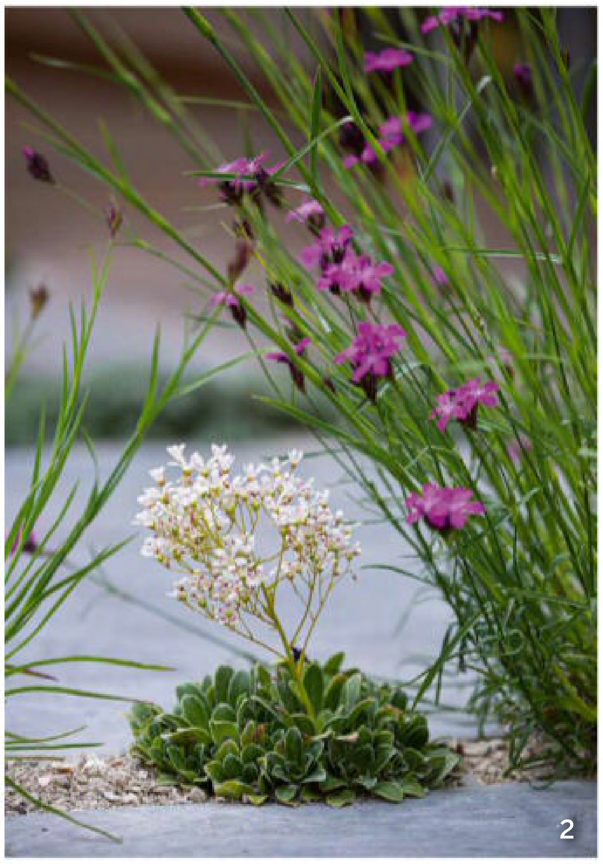

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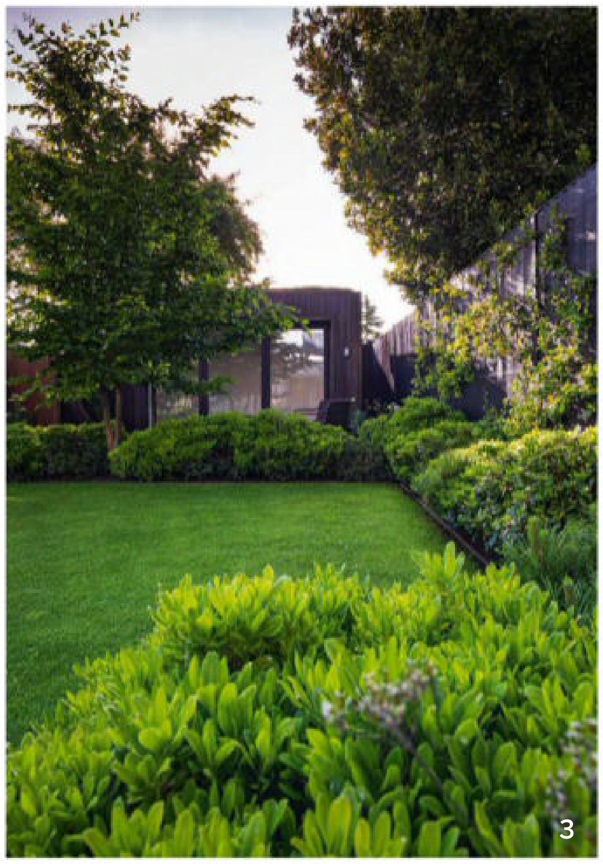

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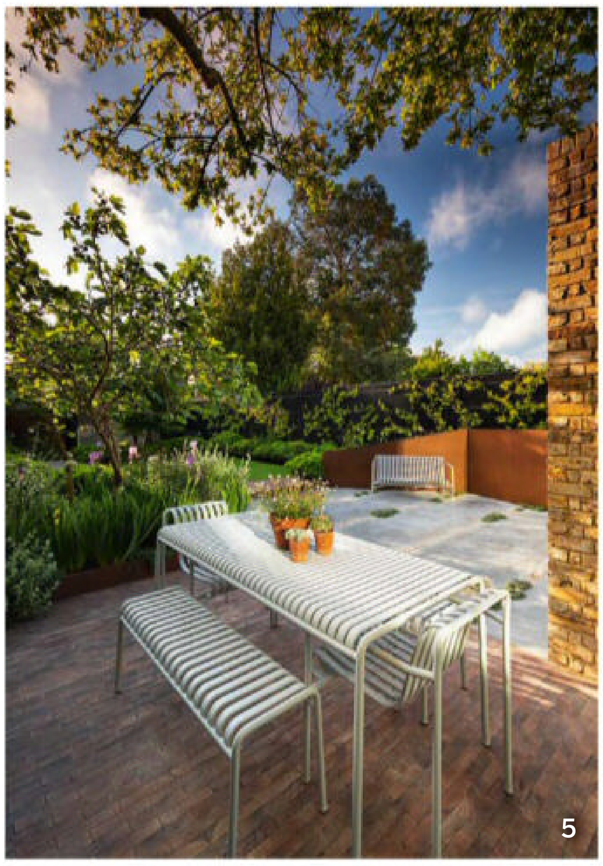

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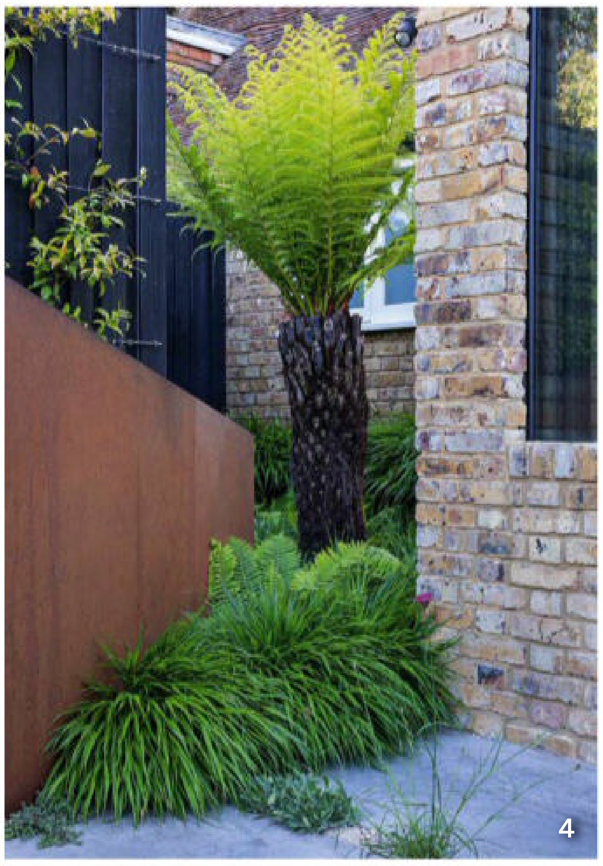

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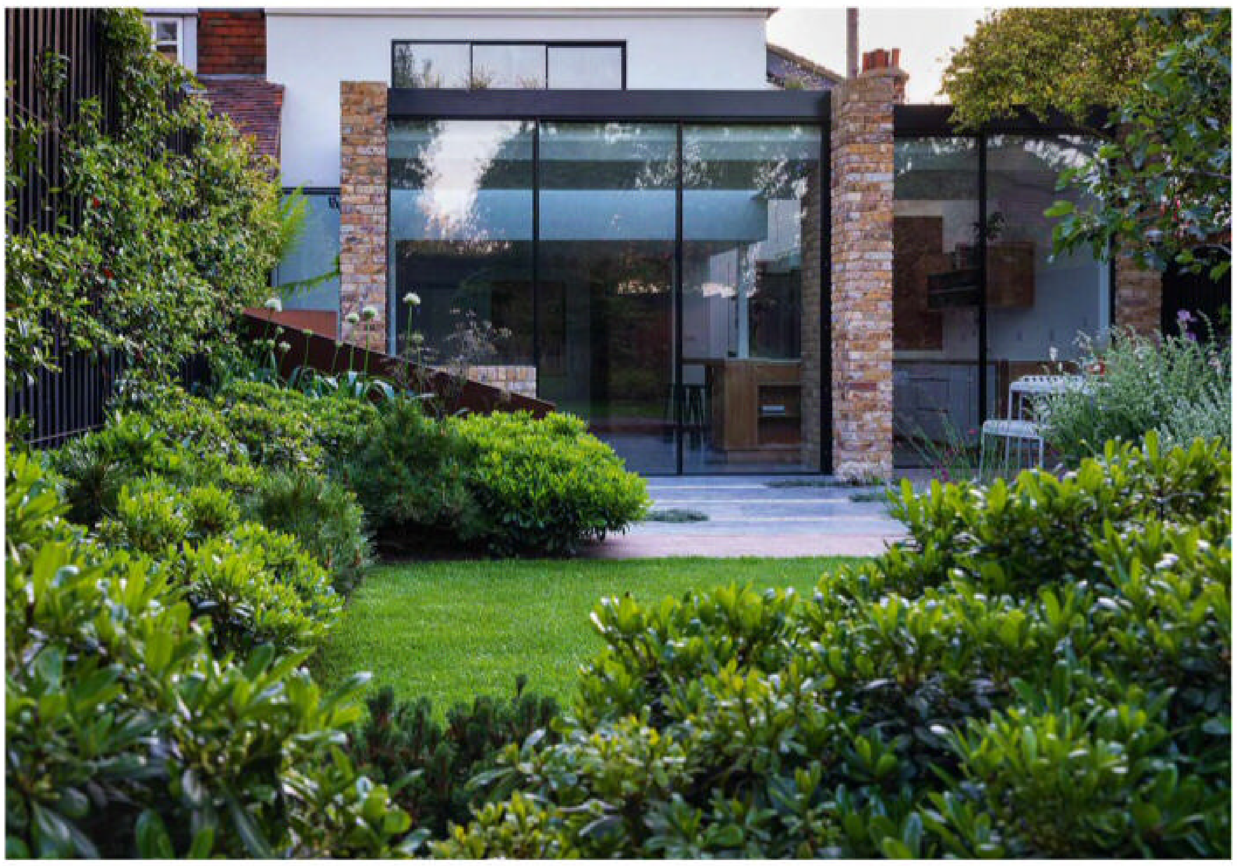
Clockwise from top left
1 White *Allium nigrum*, backed by a Corten steel screen, rises out of mounds of *Pinus mugo* and *Pittosporum tobira*; **2** Magenta-flowered *Dianthus carthusianorum* and a tussock of *Saxifraga* 'Monarch' grow in a strip of crushed shells; **3** At the heart of the garden the planting is predominantly cool and green; **4** An awkward corner is turned into a stylish set piece with a tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) rising from a sea of *Hakonechloa macra* and ferns; **5** The powder-coated steel furniture is all from the Palissade range designed for Hay.

Below left
Looking back towards the house, a lush, green lawn framed by mounds of *Pinus mugo* and *Pittosporum tobira* is neatly bookended by a bold, diagonal sheet of Corten steel that encloses the polished concrete terrace, creating a sense of interconnecting rooms with different but complementary characters.



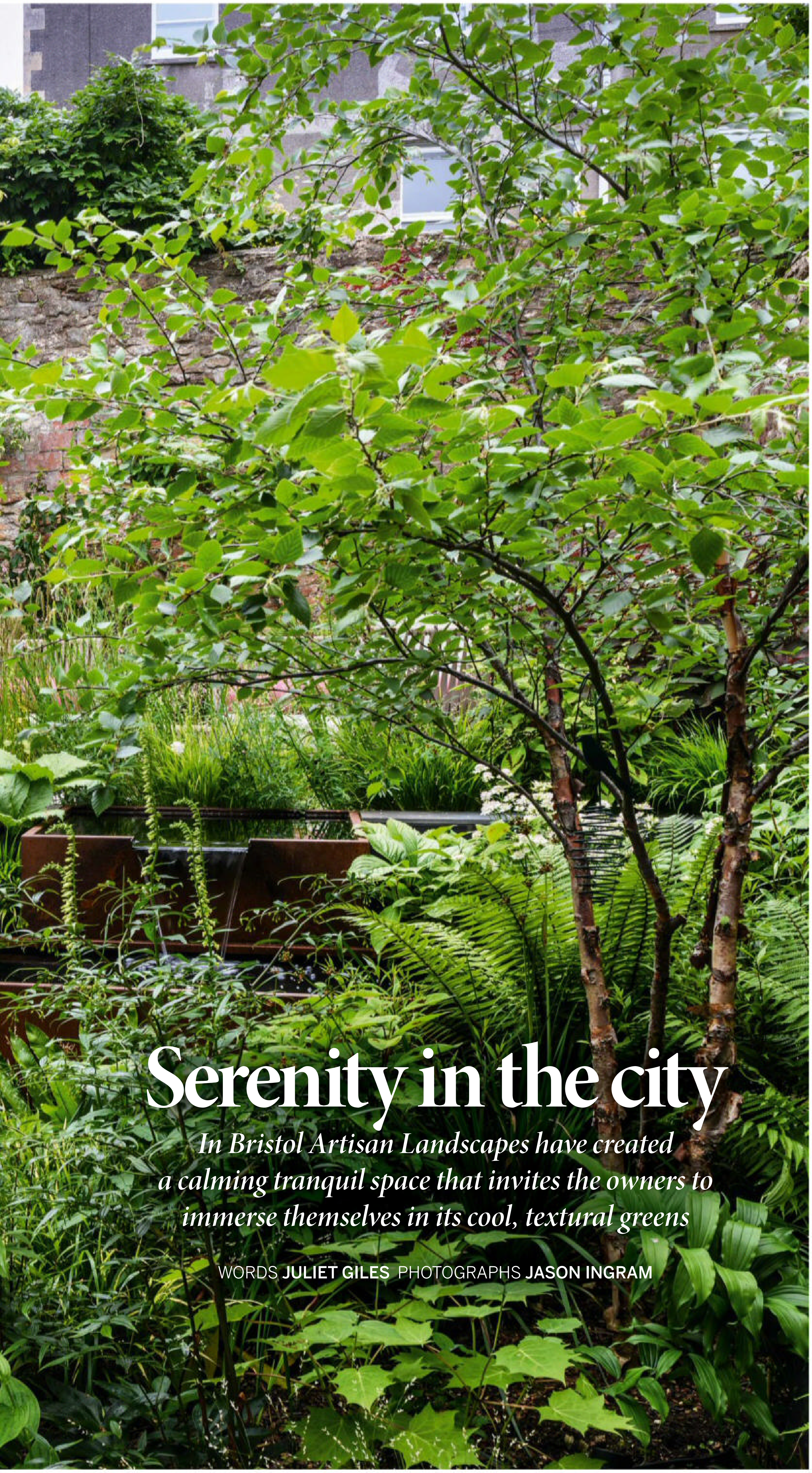
Surface details

Using vernacular materials is a tried-and-tested way to help a garden to settle into its surroundings.

"Although this garden is quite modern in design, we did want to honour its seaside setting, so all the materials we have used in its construction can be found in the local area," says Harriet.

Poured concrete and rusted Corten steel are genuinely maritime features and are voguish in contemporary garden design, but the crushed seashells that run in strips across the terrace are a novel alternative to pebbles or pea shingle.

The unusual element of this design, however, is the oak setts that have been used in the dining area and around the garden. "We came across these in Whitstable Castle," says Harriet. "In the late 18th century they were used for paving near gunpowder stores, where the spark of a horse's hoof striking cobbles could have been disastrous. They are tricky to lay, as the wooden cubes are all slightly different sizes, but bedded into sharp sand they make a wonderfully warm and durable paving alternative."



Serenity in the city

In Bristol Artisan Landscapes have created a calming tranquil space that invites the owners to immerse themselves in its cool, textural greens

WORDS **JULIET GILES** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

KEY ELEMENTS

What Award-winning residential garden.
Where Bristol.
Size 60 square metres (9m x 6.5m).
Soil Sandy clay loam, with newly incorporated soil, mulched annually with well-composted bark for structure.
Aspect Northeast-facing.
Special features Calm, Japanese-style planting surrounding a Corten steel water feature.
Designed by Jamie Innes of Artisan Landscapes (artisanlandscapes.co.uk).

When you live in one of the wettest corners of the UK, and are forced to spend more time looking at your garden than sitting in it, you really want a space that will bring joy on those dull, rainy days.

The courtyard garden that Renate Larkin inherited was never going to do the job. "It was just two levels of granite paving, with two retaining walls, and small planting strips at the back and in the space between the retaining walls. And that was it," recalls Will Cooke of Artisan Landscapes, the Bristol-based design and build studio Renate asked to give the space some Japanese-style calm.

"Renate loves Japanese plants and wanted to create a lush, immersive oasis that could almost transport you to another world," adds Jamie Innes, Will's partner, who looks after design while Will oversees the build. And although Renate had some specific requests – two trees, a Corten steel water feature and to retain some plants – she was happy to allow Will and Jamie to come up with something fabulous. "Renate was very giving," says Will. "She just asked us to 'do our thing', saying that she trusted us to design a planting scheme that would work."

While the brief gave Will and Jamie pretty much a free hand to put their mark on the garden, the build wasn't without its challenges. The garden is enclosed by high walls that create a lot of shade. And limited access through the house meant that everything – plants, trees, topsoil and the 200kg Corten steel water feature – had to be hoisted over those 3.5m garden walls. ▷

Lush planting around a multi-stemmed *Betula nigra* creates the impression of a Japanese hillside in this small garden. Japanese-style, charred Accoya cladding on the steps creates a stylish transition to the upper level where softer planting surrounds a seating area and the statue *Gift* by Carol Peace.

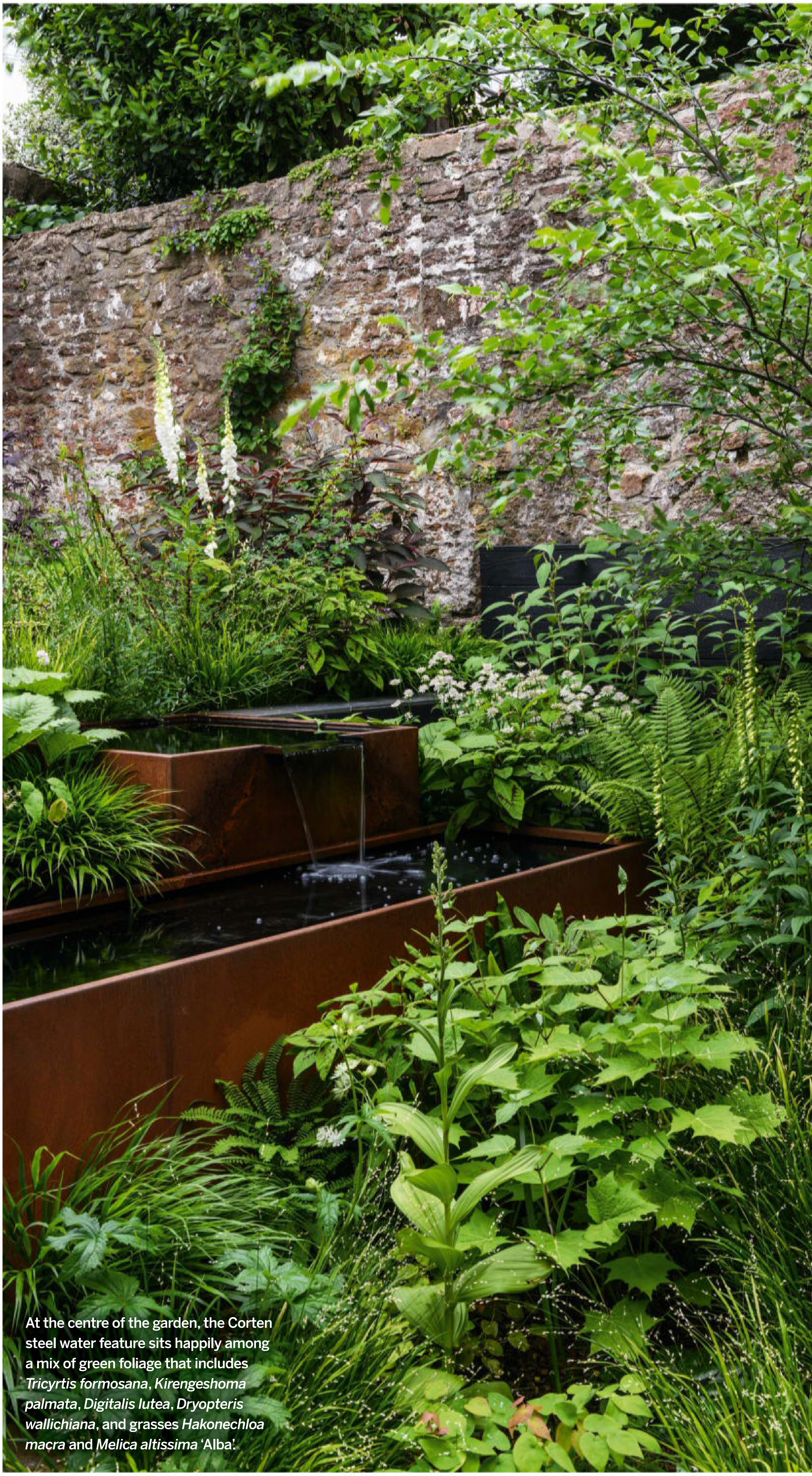
A sweeping curve, carved into the decking, creates a large, mounded area for planting around the Corten steel water feature

▷ The water feature now fits snugly between the existing retaining walls, which have been clad in a stylish charred Accoya. To keep down costs, the original granite tiles were reused on the upper level and on the steps, while on the lower level the tiles were replaced with a ThermoWood decking that forms a near-seamless transition to the flooring inside. A sweeping curve, carved into the decking, creates a large, mounded area for planting around the water feature and a multi-stemmed *Betula nigra*, and brings the planting so close to the house it almost seems to spill in through the windows.

Here Jamie has kept the planting relatively low so that it embraces rather than engulfs the water feature. The mainly green palette offers a rich mix of textures, from the large-leaved *Rodgersia aesculifolia* to the beautifully delicate *Disporum longistylum* 'Night Heron' with its nodding white flowers. Other flecks of colour come from tellimas, epimediums, astrantias, peonies, the hot-red thorns of *Rosa sericea* subsp. *omeiensis* f. *pteracantha* and the tiny, white flowers of the airy grass *Melica altissima* 'Alba' that Jamie has woven throughout the garden.

On the upper, sunnier seating level Jamie has catered to Renate's desire for more colour with softer, meadowy planting that is dotted with seasonal flowers and some plants from Renate's original garden, such as *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', while a *Cornus kousa* balances the river birch near the house.

Renate's trust in Will and Jamie more than paid off, and she is so pleased with the result she has asked Artisan Landscapes back to transform her front garden as well – this time designed by Artisan's Alice Ferguson. "There's almost always one of us outside now enjoying the space," says Renate. "It's really changed the way we live. Even if the weather's not great, we can at least just sit in the living room, look out at the garden and listen to the water." □

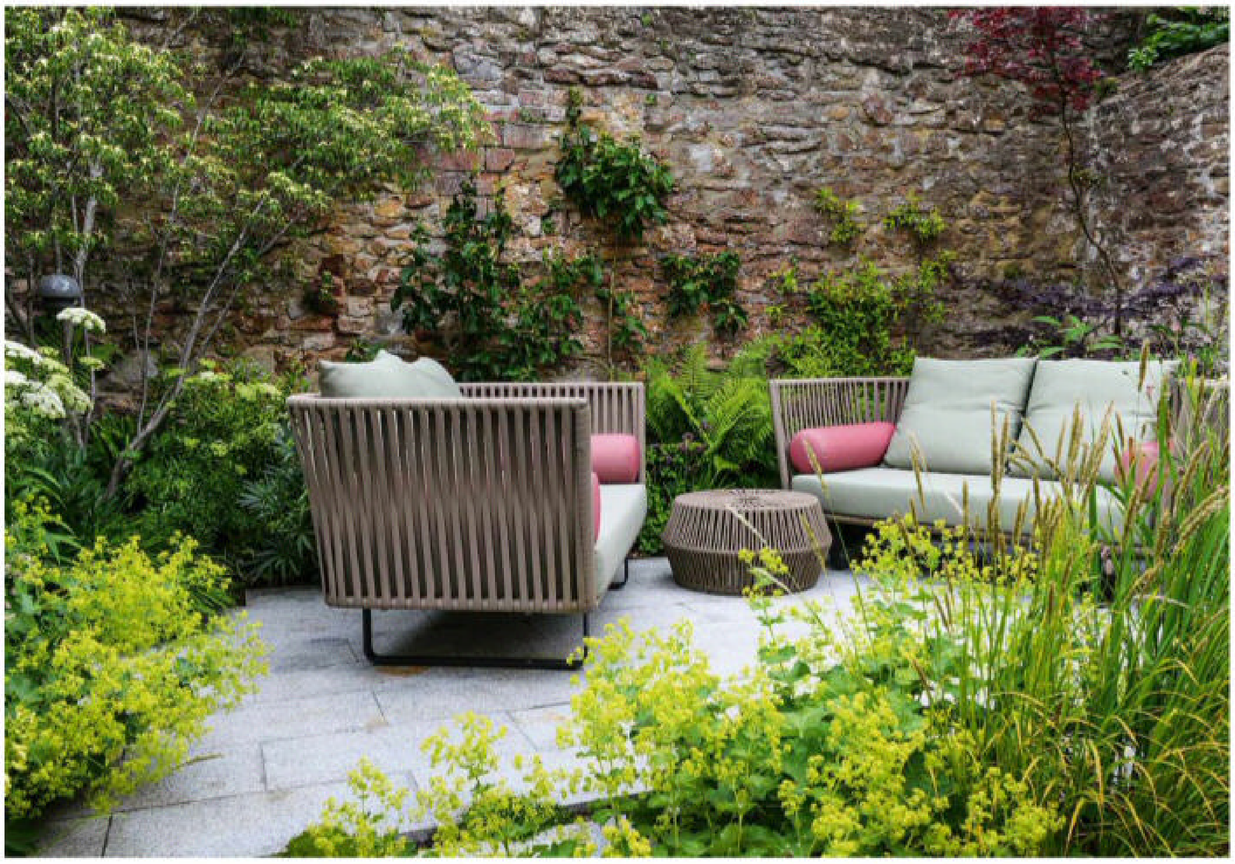


At the centre of the garden, the Corten steel water feature sits happily among a mix of green foliage that includes *Tricyrtis formosana*, *Kirengeshoma palmata*, *Digitalis lutea*, *Dryopteris wallichiana*, and grasses *Hakonechloa macra* and *Melica altissima* 'Alba'.

Creating a city sanctuary

Ideas to help bring calm to a small space

- **Don't try to fit in too much.** With any small garden there is the temptation to try to squeeze in too many functions, but if your key aim is relaxation, it's even more important to keep things simple.
- **A green planting palette** is always soothing, so when choosing your plants think first about overall leaf forms and textures and how the foliage will look together. You can add some seasonal highlights to the mix once you're happy with the bigger picture.
- **Limit your palette.** Don't try to include too many different plants in a small garden; a few well-chosen specimens will have more impact. "I normally remove around half of my initial plant list," admits Jamie. Apply the same principle to hard landscaping. "If you throw too many things in," says Will, "the garden won't knit together."
- **Add water.** The sound of water can bring instant calm and help block out city noise, but don't be too ambitious. "Water needs to add ambience to a garden, not create a deafening roar," says Jamie.



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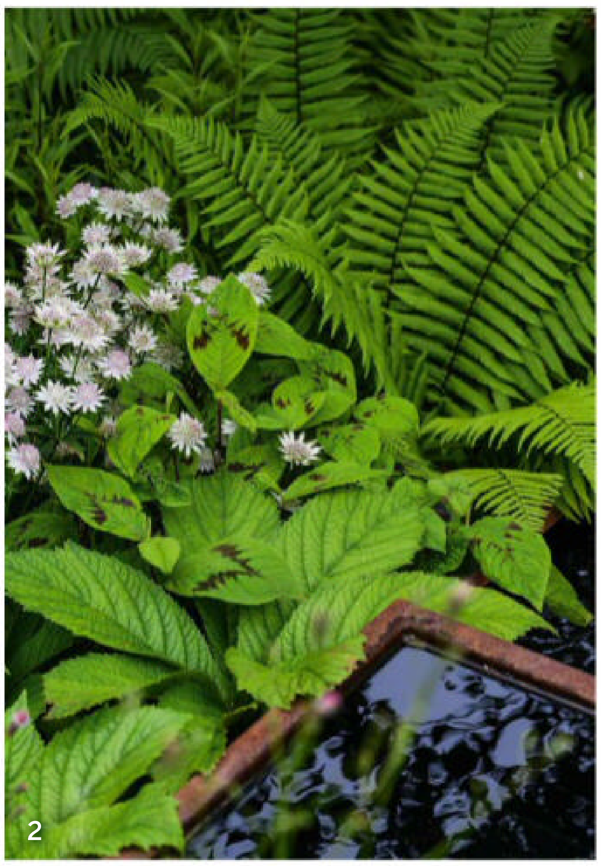
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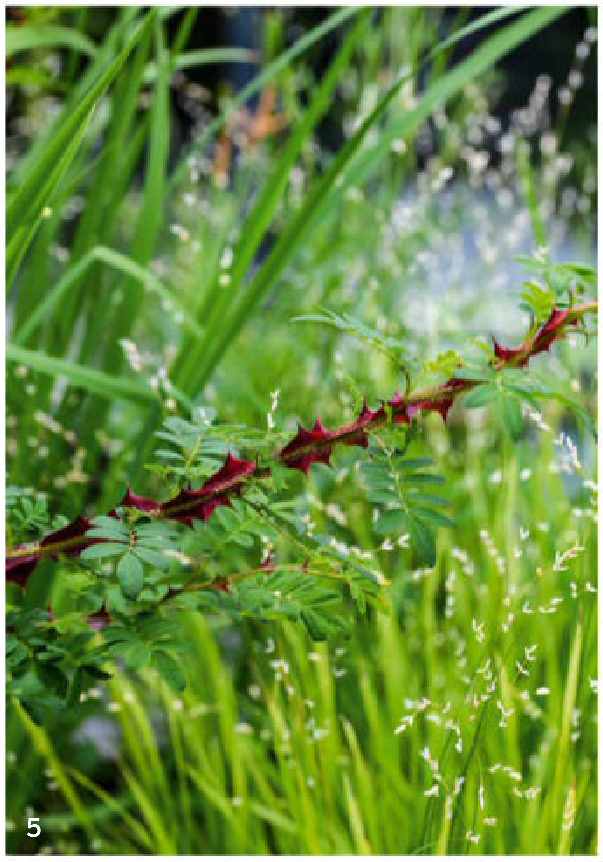
Above
Hidden from view from the house, the seating terrace is embraced by softer planting, including *Alchemilla mollis*, *Cenolophium denudatum* and the grass *Melica ciliata*, while the ferns and the multi-stemmed *Cornus kousa* help to link the planting back to the lusher greens near the house. Renate and her husband spend a lot of time in Spain and have chosen furniture from Barcelona-based Kettal for this sunnier spot.

Clockwise from far right
1 The white flowers of *Cornus kousa* brighten the far corner of the garden; **2** *Astrantia major* with its pale, pinkish tones provides a spot of colour among the contrasting foliages of *Persicaria virginiana* var. *filiformis* and the fern *Dryopteris wallichiana*; **3** *Sanguisorba* 'Pink Tanna' mingles with grass *Melica ciliata* on the edge of the upper level; **4** Granite slabs, softened by *Sagina subulata*, link the steps to the granite of the upper level; **5** With its distinctive, red thorns, *Rosa sericea* subsp. *omeiensis* f. *pteracantha* offers a striking contrast to the delicate, white flowers of *Melica altissima* 'Alba', while the vibrancy of its colour is intensified by the glow of the Corten steel.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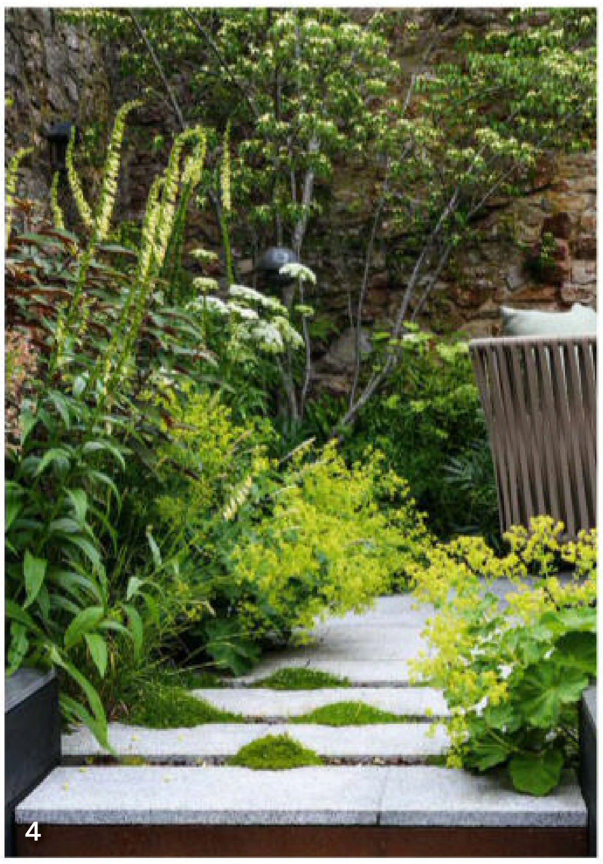
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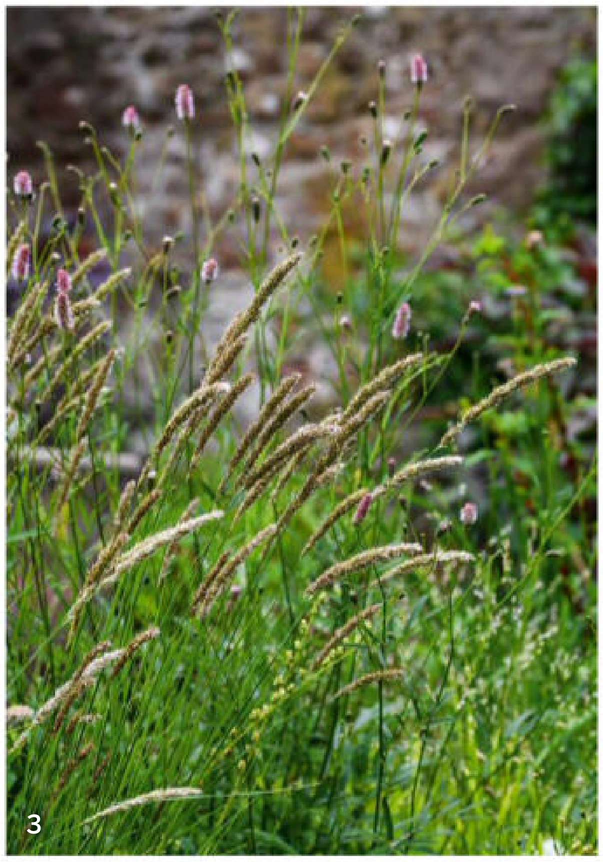
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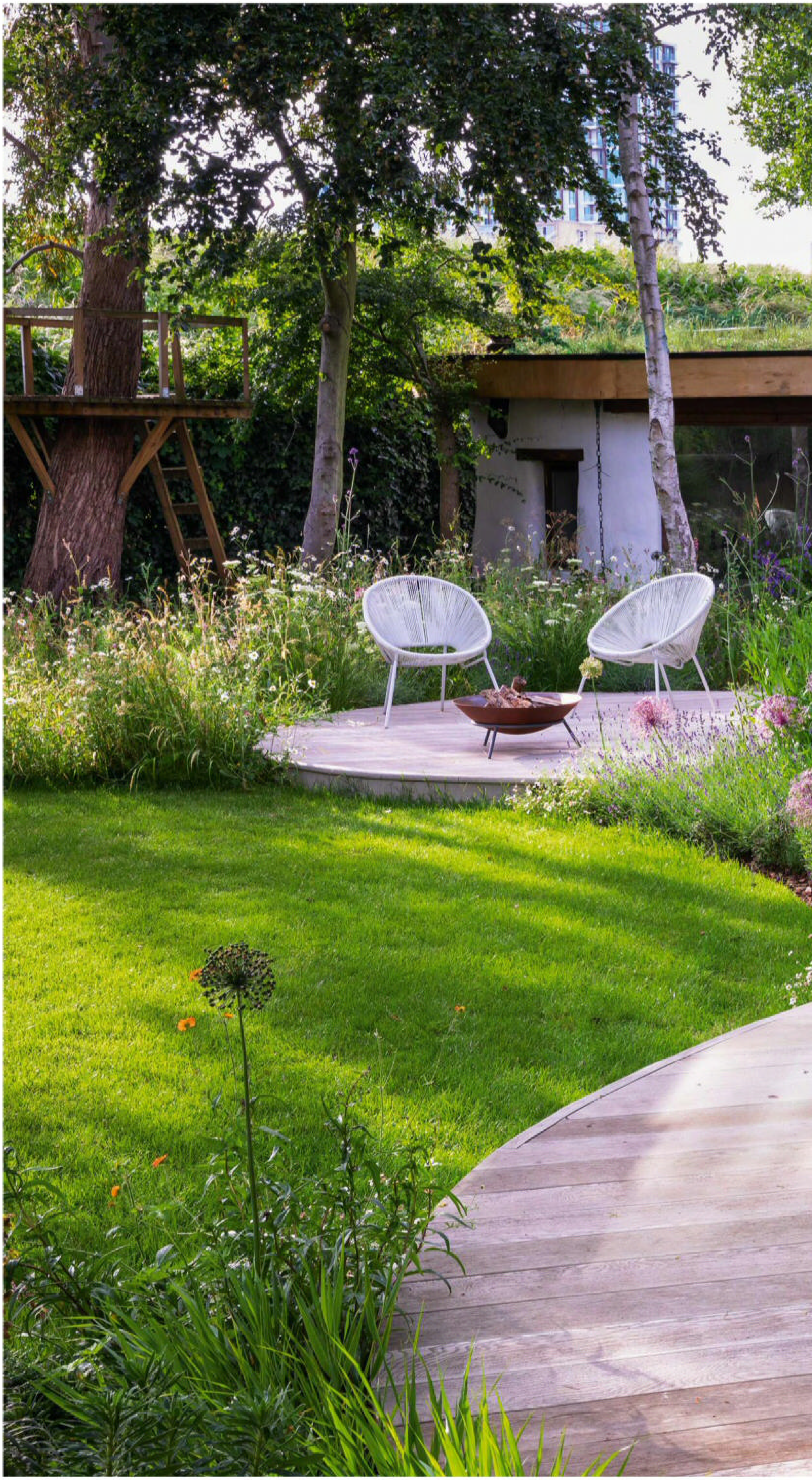
KEY ELEMENTS

What Residential garden.
Where North London.
Size An elongated quadrilateral covering about 410 square metres.
Soil Topsoil over London clay, with added organic matter and grit where needed to ease drainage.
Aspect Northwest-facing.
Special features Cob house, meadow area.
Designed by Jenny Bloom (jennybloom.co.uk).



In small city gardens, it can be hard to tap into any sense of genius loci. But this plot nestles up against the wildflower-strewn banks of a north London reservoir and wetland. Along with a charming cob summer house, built by the previous owners, these banks form the vista of the garden. This unique character convinced the current owners, Emma and David Barker, to move here – and persuaded garden designer Jenny Bloom to take on the project. For all its charm, the garden had become crowded with a tangle of tall trees that shaded the whole space, while the boundary on one side was a mess of breeze block, brick and wire that only served to lead the eye towards the seven-storey block of flats beyond.

Jenny also had to reconcile the family's seemingly contradictory wishes for their garden. While the two young children wanted somewhere to play, including a lawn for ball games, David wanted the space to feel neat, orderly and restful while Emma wanted to retain the garden's wild ambience. "The questions Jenny asked were so helpful in drawing out what we wanted and enabling us all to see the possibilities," recalls Emma.

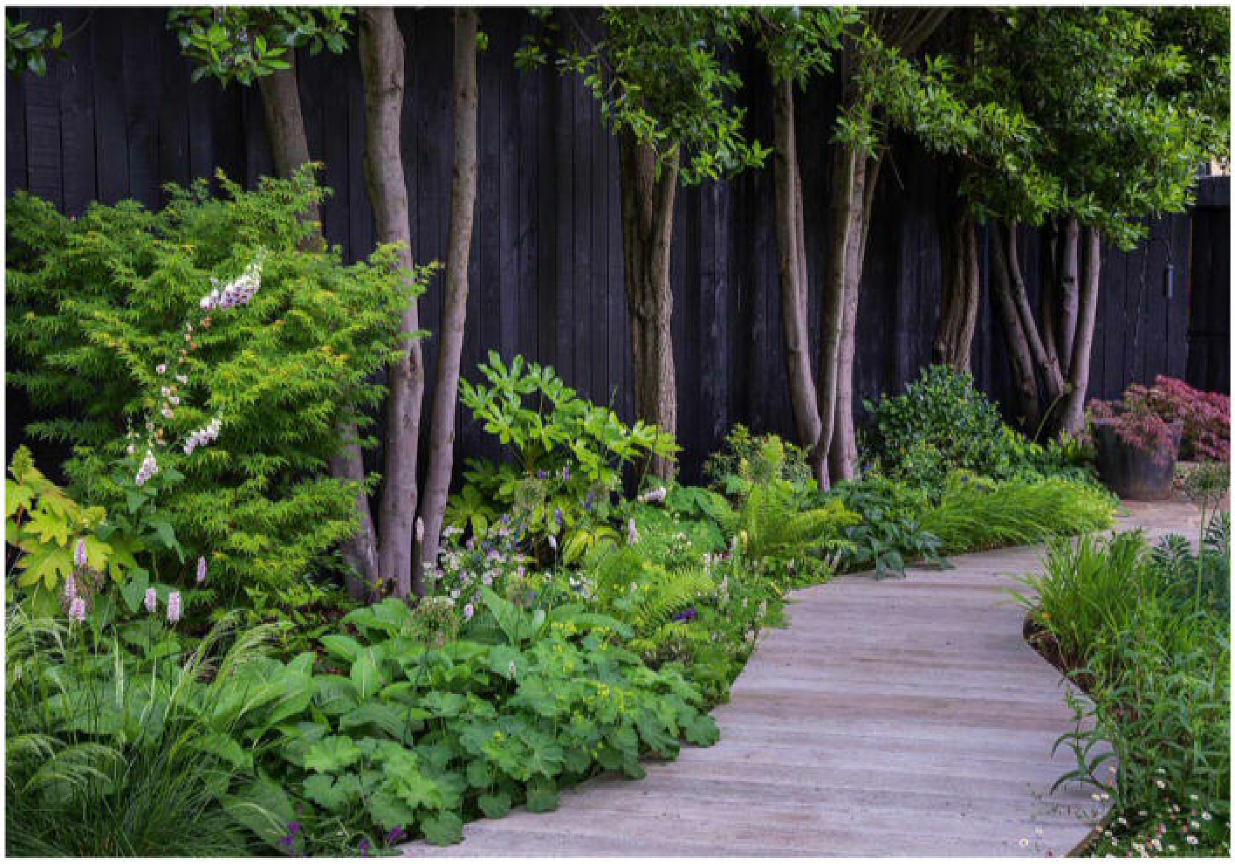
Taking the neighbouring wilderness as her inspiration, Jenny decided on a curvilinear plan to play down the garden's elongated quadrilateral shape and to open up the centre of the space with a lawn. The existing mature trees – including birch, ash, hawthorn, cherry, pear and bay – were sensitively pruned to bring more light into the garden while continuing to provide ▷

A raised boardwalk meanders from the house to the rear of the garden, where the mature trees have been carefully pruned to increase light. To unite the wild area with the rest of the garden, Jenny has opted for tall, airy plants including *Echinacea pallida*, *Oenothera lindheimeri* and *Verbena bonariensis.*

Mini meadow

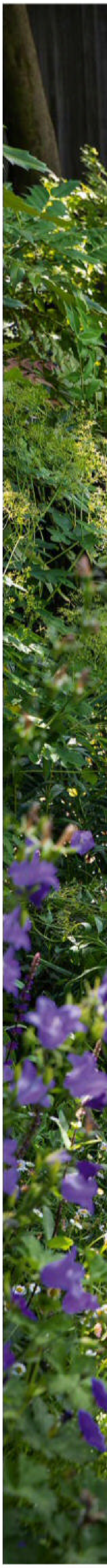
For this garden in north London, designer Jenny Bloom drew inspiration from the unusually wild landscape on its fringes

WORDS **KATE JACOBS** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**



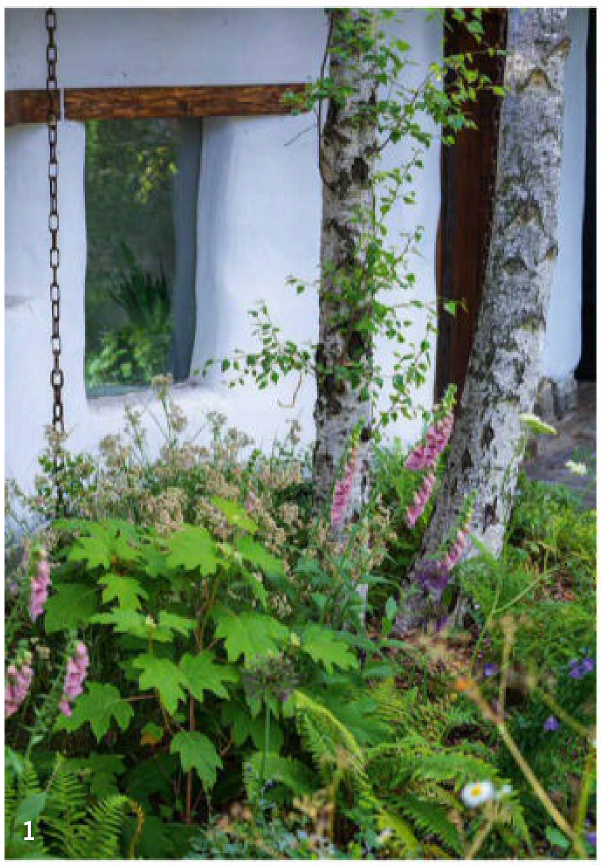
How to create a meadow area in a small garden

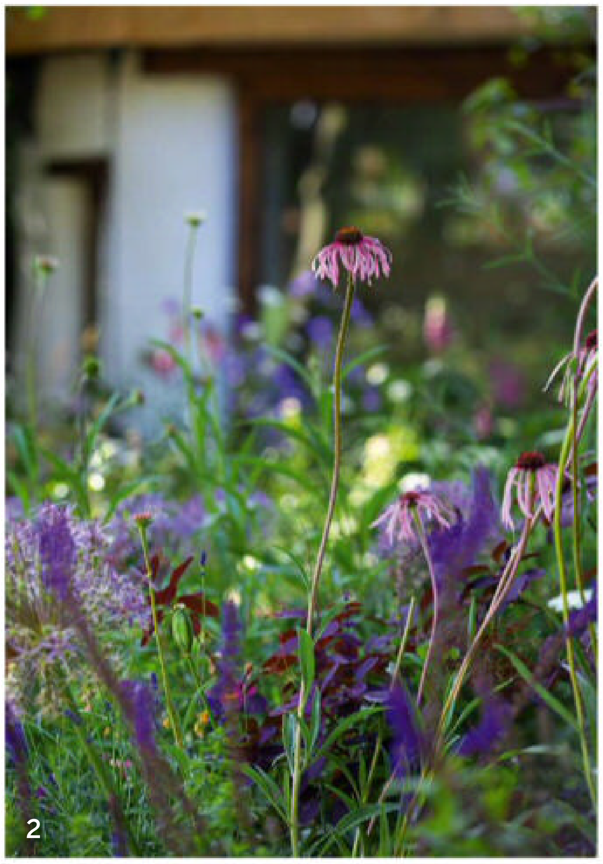
- **Meadow turf is a simple way** to achieve a meadow, with ranges to suit most conditions. In this case Jenny opted for a shade-tolerant mix from Wildflower Turf that features some 41 species.
- **Prepare the ground** by digging over the soil, removing any existing vegetation, stones or roots before raking the ground over to create a fine tilth.
- **Boost year-round interest** by planting a succession of spring bulbs before laying the turf.
- **Water with care** while the turf establishes. After a couple of weeks it will be drought-tolerant. Too much water will cause the grasses to dominate.
- **Cut back in late summer** once the plants have shed their seed but before close trees drop their leaves. Take it down to 3-5cm, using a brushcutter.
- **Gather up all the cut material**, as well as any fallen leaves, to prevent them from enriching the soil, as meadow plants thrive on poor ground.
- **Provide wildlife with an ongoing habitat** by cutting half the meadow first and allowing time for it to regrow before cutting the other half.

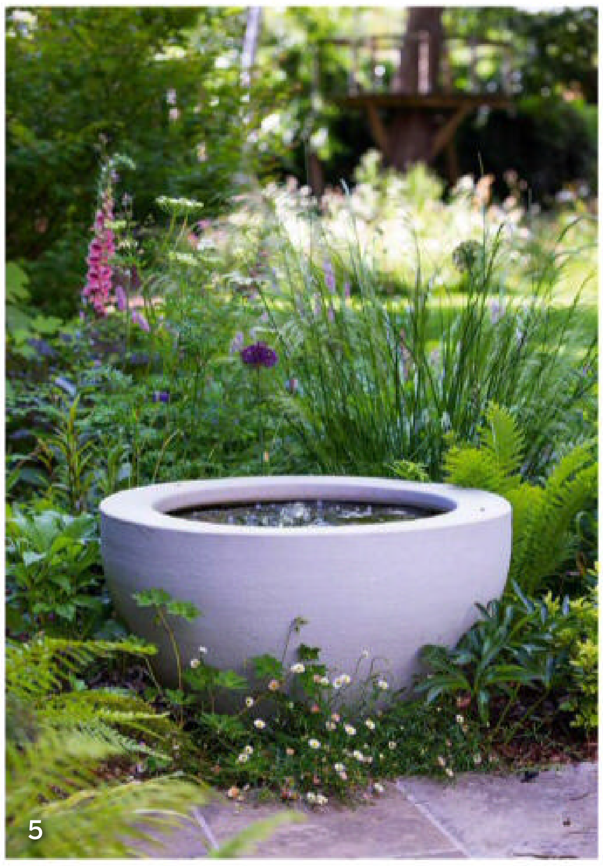


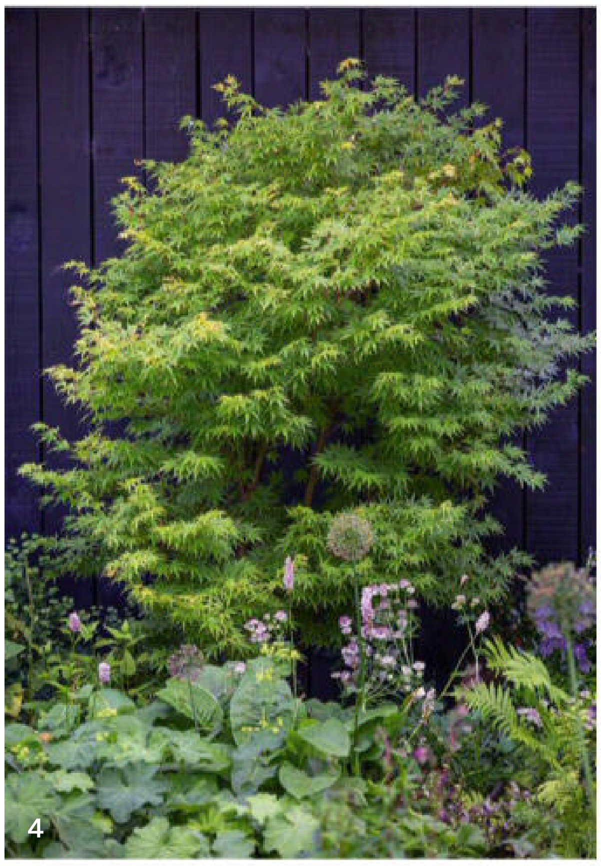
Above
A row of multi-stemmed bay trees creates a pleasing linear effect against the black fence while textural plants, including *Persicaria bistorta Alchemilla mollis* and *Hakonechloa macra*, soften the edges of the curving boardwalk from Millboard.

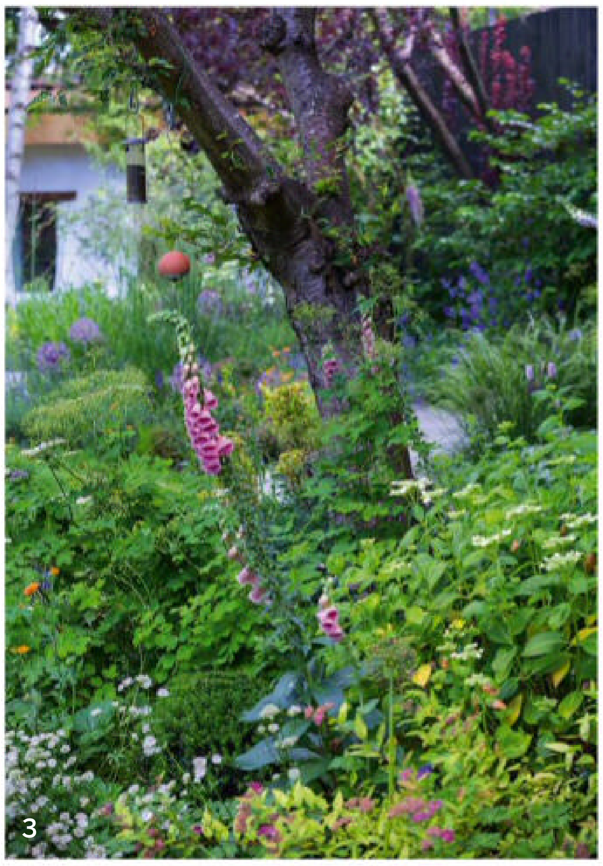
Clockwise from right
1 The planting takes its inspiration from the wild area beyond the garden. In the shade of the cob house is *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Digitalis* x *mertonensis*, *Luzula nivea* and *Polystichum setiferum*; **2** Ethereal *Echinacea pallida* and the purple spires of *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', with *Allium cristophii* and the dark foliage of *Cotinus* 'Grace'; **3** A mix of softer planting beneath an old flowering cherry includes *Thalictrum* 'Black Stockings', *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Lanarth White', *Astrantia* 'Roma' and *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldflame'; **4** The black fence creates a backdrop for this *Acer palmatum* 'Trompenburg'; **5** A gently bubbling Urbis water feature surrounded by plants, including *Matteuccia struthiopteris* and *Erigeron karvinskianus*.











The Millboard boardwalk is laid flush with the reclaimed York stone paved area by the house and they share the same soft, beige tones, for a seamless sense of flow. The vivid blues of *Campanula persicifolia* and *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat') leap out against the rich-green foliage.

Jenny selected many plants for their long flowering periods. "Every plant has to earn its place in a small garden"

▷ screening. A tall timber fence, stained black, was installed to screen the ugly boundary and act as a backdrop for planting.

Jenny created a serpentine boardwalk that meanders through a haze of planting, culminating in a seating area. Slightly elevated and edged with a fascia, it takes on a sculptural quality, allowing the visitor to feel as though they are floating through the planting. "This key feature adds definition to the space and helps bring everything together," explains Jenny.

Jenny brought the wetland into the garden by using plants inspired by those growing on the bank beyond. "In London, you can't often borrow a landscape of wildflowers and grasses, so I wanted to incorporate this into the garden by creating a perennial wildflower meadow at the end of the lawn, blurring the boundary between the garden and the wild landscape beyond," she explains.

She was also keen to use the 'cultivated cousins' of the neighbouring wildflowers in this project. Plants such as *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau' and *Cenolophium denudatum* are woven through the rest of the soft, romantic planting scheme, which also features strawberry foxglove (*Digitalis* x *mertonensis*), *Campanula persicifolia* and *Allium cristophii*, that repeat throughout the garden. "They add rhythm and unity," says Jenny. Opting for a colour palette of white, pale pink, purple and blue, with some hotter accent colours, Jenny selected many plants for their long flowering periods, including *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba' and white gaura (*Oenothera lindheimeri*). "Every plant has to earn its place in a small garden."

The family is delighted with the end result. "It feels spacious, restful and wild at the same time," says Emma. "We are surrounded by green and by nature. It's a hidden space in the middle of the city." ☐

Hide and seek

A playful design by Jack Wallington for a family garden in south London is all about concealment and discovery – and for making memories

WORDS **NATASHA GOODFELLOW** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**

KEY ELEMENTS

What Long, narrow city garden.
Where South London.
Size 6m x 42m.
Soil London loam on a clay base.
Aspect Southeast-facing.
Special features Innovative layout incorporating several seating areas, a vegetable garden and three prairie-planted mini meadows.
Designed by Jack Wallington (jackwallington.com).

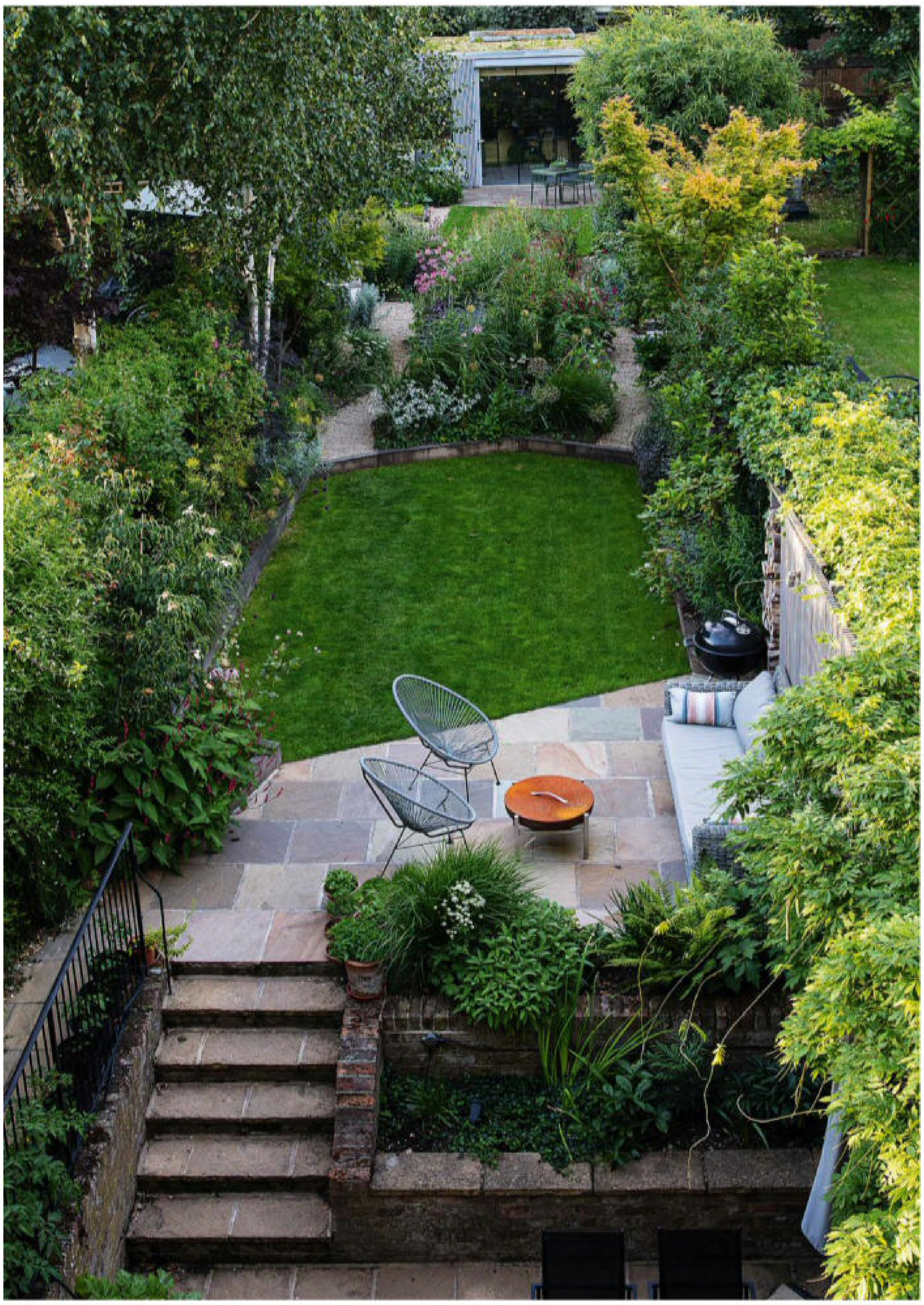
When designer Jack Wallington first saw this garden in Clapham, south London, there was not a single flower in bloom, even though it was high summer. The plot was attractive but it was dominated by evergreen shrubs and presented as one long, single view. "It was more of a picture postcard than a fun, family garden," says Jack.

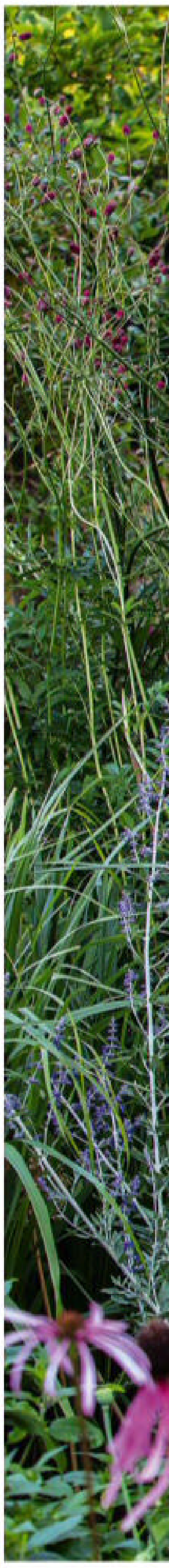
The clients, a couple with three young boys, very much wanted the latter. "They wanted colour and lightness and a space they could all use," says Jack. A new architect-designed garden room also had to be accommodated, and the owners were eager to keep their vegetable beds to the rear.

Taking the house and the modern, angular garden room at the opposite end as his starting points, Jack divided the space into a series of zones based around irregular geometric shapes. An existing sunken terrace was retained, with Jack matching the stone for the new barbecue area he created beyond. A lush lawn – and another outside the garden room – provides plenty of space for ball games, but it is in the central planted area, designed as a triptych of 'mini meadows', each slightly different, where the garden really comes alive. "I obsessed about the shape of those beds," laughs Jack. "I grew up in the country and remember how much my siblings and I loved running through the fields, so I wanted to give the boys something to chase around. As the main planted area in the garden, I treated it as a work of art too."

In his planting – a vibrant mix of *Echinacea pallida*, *Sanguisorba* 'Red Busby' and *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Diane', supplemented by spring bulbs – Jack was inspired by the work of Dutch ▷

At the heart of the garden is a triptych of three mini meadows, inspired by prairie planting and natural plant communities. Jack likes the *Sanguisorba* 'Red Busby', which creates a cloud of maroon buttons above the *Echinacea pallida*, *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Diane' and *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail'.





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Jack deliberately chose tall plants to add an air of concealment and a sense of discovery to the garden.

The garden is divided into irregular geometric shapes, which are particularly effective when viewed from the upper floors of the house.

Persicaria amplexicaulis 'Firetail' is in almost every bed in the garden. Here it is seen with *Geranium* 'Ann Folkard' and the seedheads of *Allium cristophii*.

A window seat in the garden room (designed by Matthew Giles Architects) appears to hover over a bed of *Dryopteris wallichiana*, *Eurybia divaricata* and *Astrantia major* subsp. *involucrata* 'Shaggy'.

Facing page

Self-seeded opium poppies and wild carrot are allowed to mingle with the perennial plantings, which include *Liatris spicata*, *Salvia yangii* 'Little Spire' and *Kniphofia* 'Green Jade'.

▷ plantsperson Piet Oudolf, particularly his work at Scampston Hall in Yorkshire. The plants have been chosen for their summer colour and their autumn and winter skeletons (to ensure a long season of interest) and many are intentionally very tall as well. "I wanted that sensation of having to physically brush past them and, then, when one gets to the end and sits down, of being completely immersed in them," says Jack.

The narrower side beds, where Jack has managed to incorporate two more seating areas, one for morning sun and one for the evening light, were more challenging but Jack has come up with a selection of 'bullet-proof' plants he knows will be happy under trees, closer to fences or in other tricky spots. These include geraniums, hellebores, *Calamagrostis brachytricha* and persicaria, which, he says, "seems to work anywhere. If in doubt, persicaria is normally a good

> I wanted that sensation of having to physically brush past the plants, of being completely immersed

answer.” While Jack was working on this garden he was also writing his book *Wild About Weeds* and so it became something of a trial ground for his ideas about allowing wildflowers and weeds to intermingle with garden plants. “I love the white umbels of the wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) with *Hylotelephium telephium* ‘Purple Emperor’ and self-seeded opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*),” he says “and we leave things such as geraniums and buttercups, too.”

Though the self-seeders do need to be kept in check, the garden is relatively low-maintenance, with a gardener, and sometimes Jack, visiting just once every six weeks or so throughout the summer. “I was weeding there one day and the boys and their friends were charging around the beds and playing games, just as I’d hoped they would,” says Jack. “I want to create spaces that allow people to make memories – I couldn’t have asked for more.”□

In the zone

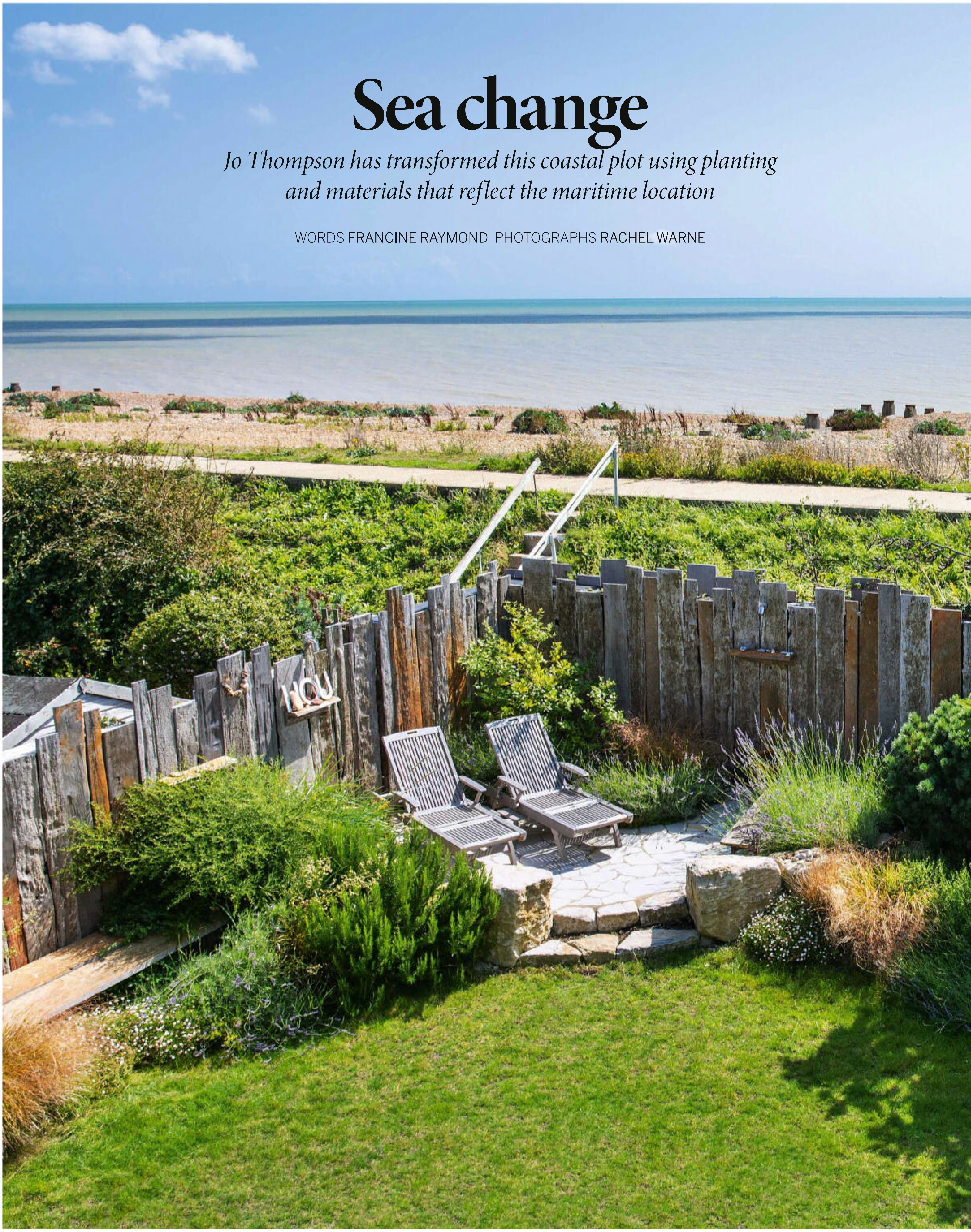
Top tips for maximising space in a small garden from designer Jack Wallington

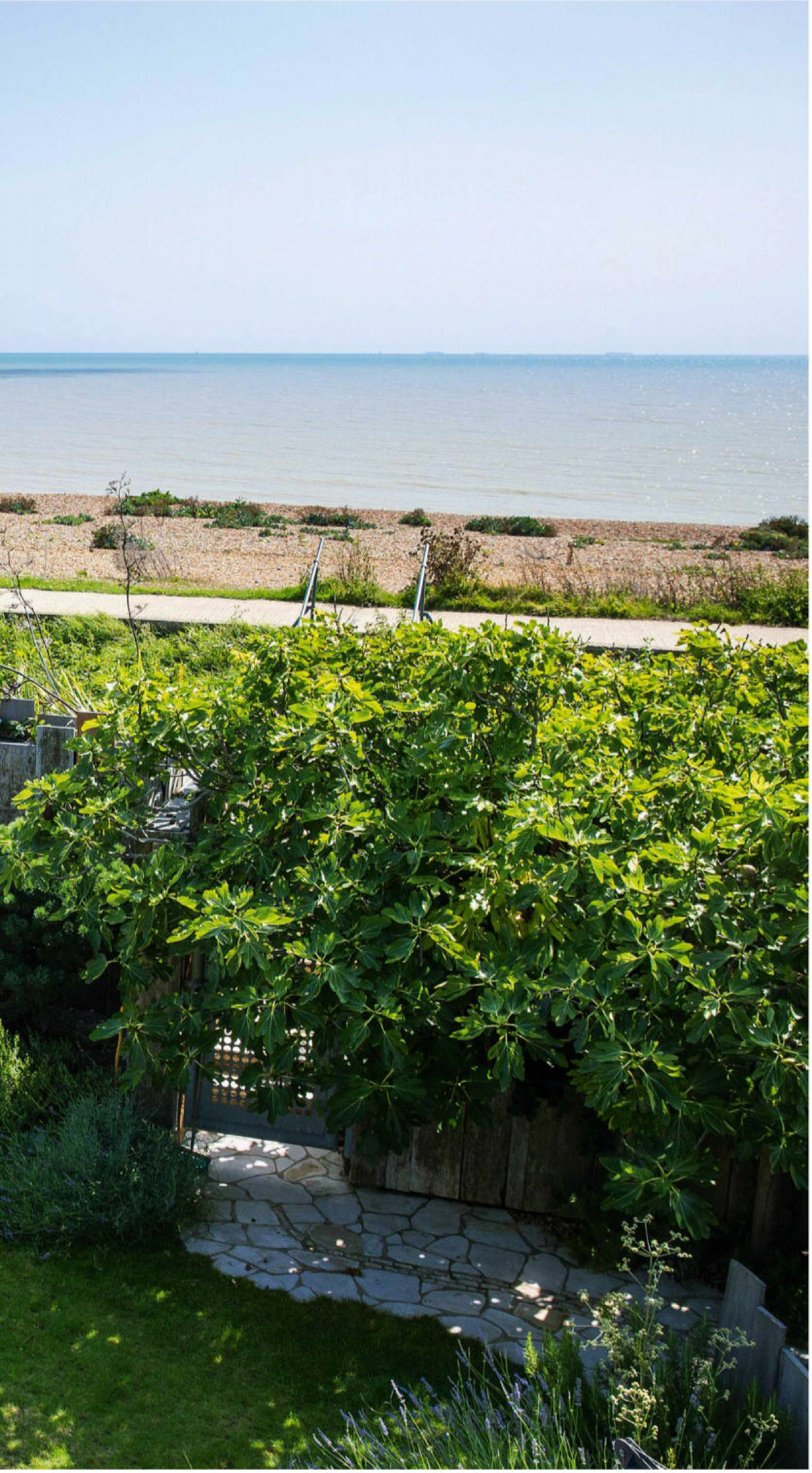
- **In very small gardens** it can sometimes be better to concentrate on a single view in order to have maximum impact from the house but in many cases, dividing a space into zones can help it seem larger, and helps ensure the space is used to its fullest, too.
- **Zoning can be achieved by dividing areas** with trellis, flowerbeds, hedges or a small shrub, or by different surface treatments, for example lawn, gravel, hard landscaping, and so on. In urban gardens, I prefer to use the same landscaping materials throughout for consistency – I find it’s better to let the plants do the talking.
- **Try to place your different areas** – for seating, dining or for raised beds or pots, for example – in different corners of the garden and don’t forget about the edges. A bench tucked away in a side bed and perhaps backed by a mass of *Clematis* ‘Apple Blossom’ or *Trachelospermum jasminoides* makes a lovely place to sit and invites people to stop and linger.
- **Introducing angles or curves** to your garden design often means that you can’t see the whole space in one go, which I think makes the experience better and more fulfilling. Diagonal lines can be useful as they make the view feel longer.
- **Zones can be vertical as well as horizontal**. In this garden, the wooden screen behind the sofa in the barbecue area acts like a frame or an anchor, effectively delineating the space. It also meant we could easily incorporate lighting and a log store, too.

Sea change

Jo Thompson has transformed this coastal plot using planting and materials that reflect the maritime location

WORDS **FRANCINE RAYMOND** PHOTOGRAPHS **RACHEL WARNE**





KEY ELEMENTS

What Coastal garden.
Where East Sussex coast.
Size 13.6m x 14.3m.
Soil Sandy.
Aspect South-facing.
Special features Privacy with uninterrupted views.
Designed by Jo Thompson (jothompson-garden-design.co.uk).

Imagine a garden built by a pop impresario with a penchant for 1980s Italian design, with harsh, white rendered walls, slippery decking and artificial turf. No wonder the current owners' brief was for a comfortable spot, somewhere to protect them as they hunkered down from the elements that blow in from the beach just 20 metres away.

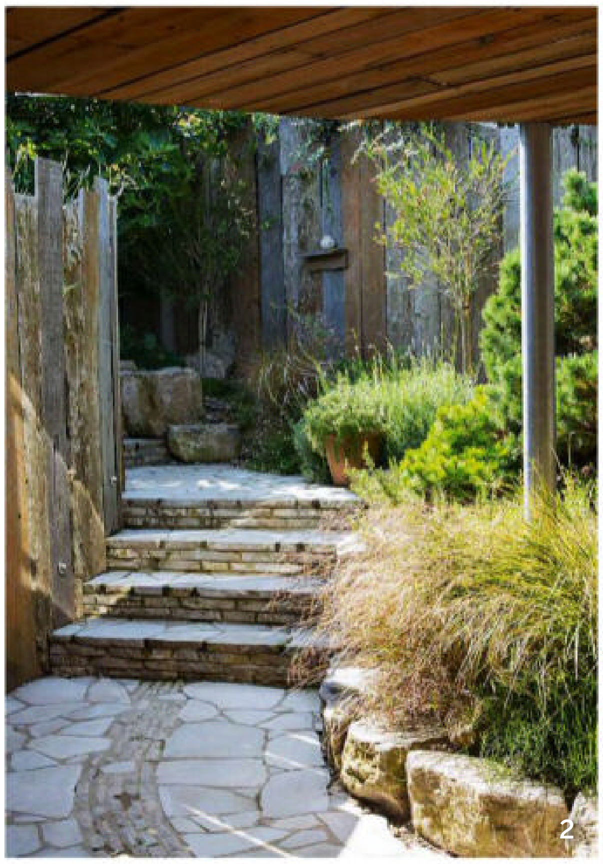
They needed a design that acknowledged the local topography with plants that were natural, hardy and didn't require endless attention: bun-shaped dwarf pine (*Pinus mugo*), scattered *Erigeron karvinskianus* and fragrant rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), plus nooks and crannies to show off found objects from their beachcombing forays.

So they called in designer Jo Thompson, who explains: "They wanted grass, not a bowling green, but somewhere to spread a picnic rug; they wanted storage, hidden away under the terrace, and they wanted to maximise the view and be linked with the landscape, but still have their privacy."

Her aim was to create a sense of movement round the garden rather than just a static view from the terrace and house; somewhere with a sense of fun. A path conjuring the shape of an octopus with tentacles reaching out over the sea wall to the beach – just over the horizon a shingle paradise dotted with hummocks of yellow horned poppies between breakwaters. The perfect spot for the owners, who like to swim in all weathers ▷

Hunkered down behind the sea wall and surrounded with a weathered timber palisade fence, the garden is protected from the elements with a sunny seating area to the left and shaded corner to the right. A stone path leads to a gate and steps over the sea wall to the beach beyond.

1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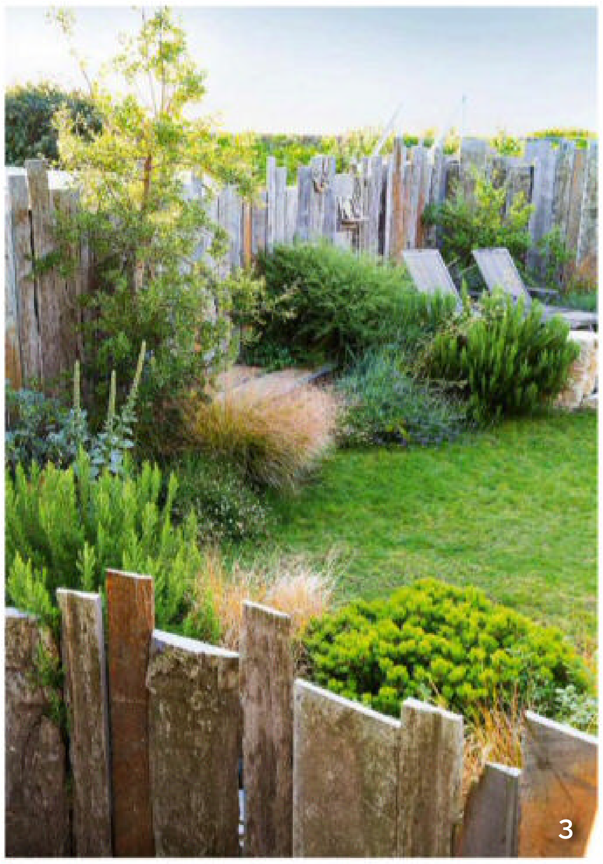
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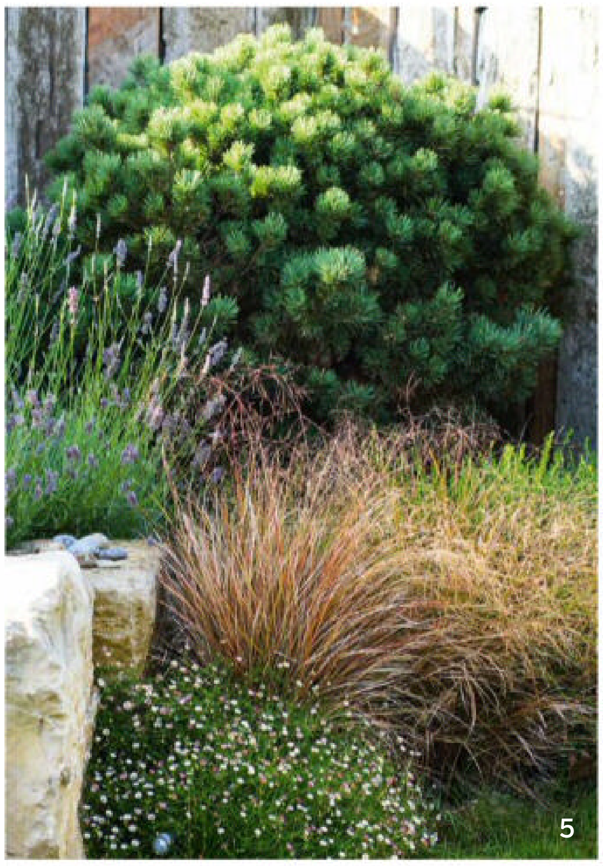
Clockwise from top left
1 The house and terrace, fronted by hummocks of pine, grasses and evergreens, have uninterrupted views to the sea; **2** A Purbeck stone path with steps winds under the terrace, framed by stone walls and pheasant grass *Anemanthele lessoniana*; **3** The curved border backed by the timber palisade shields the outdoor showering and storage area under the terrace; **4** Evergreens, conifers, herbs and grasses nestle against the inner curved fence; **5** The sea-worn fence changes colour with the weather, providing contrast and shelter for the pines, grasses and the self-seeded fleabane *Erigeron karvinskianus*.

Below right
The suntrap seating area is surrounded by a low, blond Purbeck stone wall and larger boulders, also used as seats and occasional tables. The timber wall holds small shelves and alcoves to display beachcombing finds and the remaining letters from the original house nameplate.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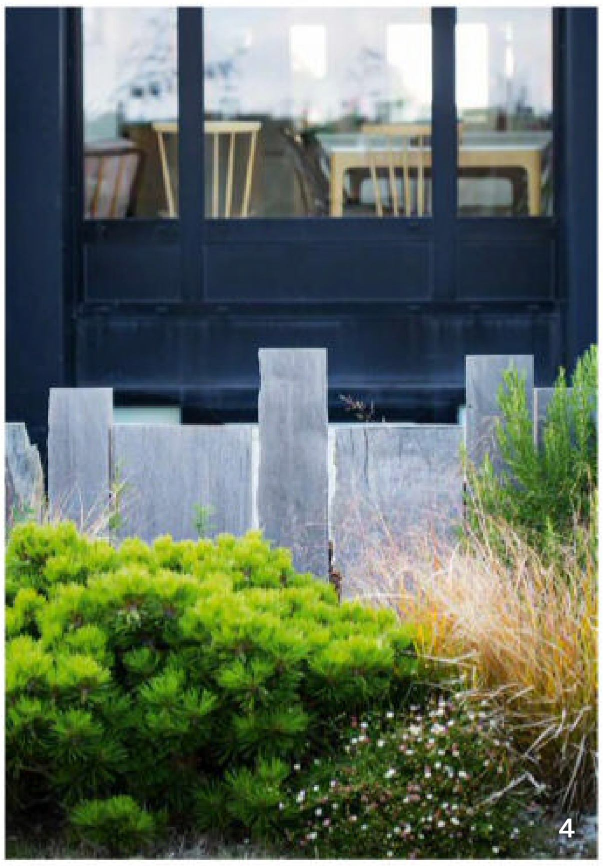
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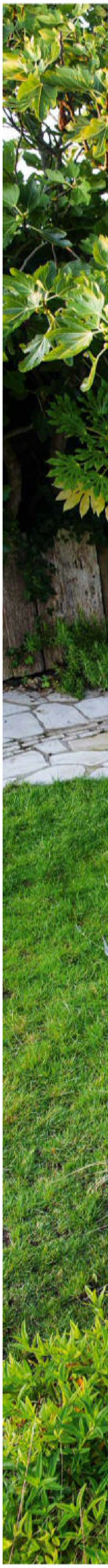
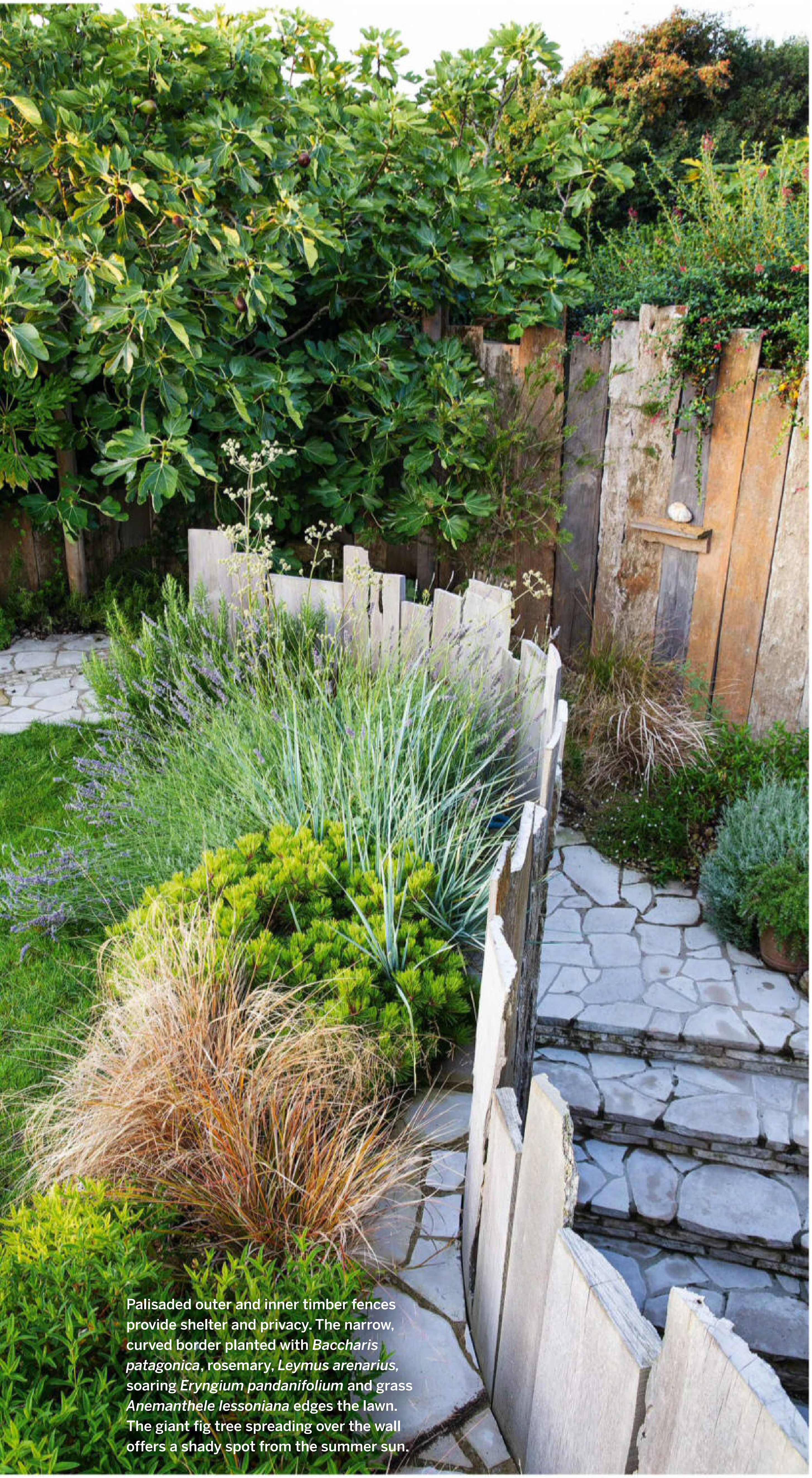
Coastal hard-landscaping details

This coastal area is often bombarded with winter winds of 90mph that scour glass, rust metals and rot wood, so outdoor materials must be chosen carefully if they are to last more than a season.

- **Although weather-beaten timber** is highly fashionable, for wood to last it has to be hardwood. Ashwell Timber supplied the reclaimed tropical hardwood used in this design, sourced from derelict jetties, docks and lock gates, that can be reimagined as fencing, garden furniture and plant containers.
- **Jo Thompson has used DesignBoard composite decking**, made of PVC and rice husk fibre on the stainless steel-framed, semi-circular deck for a low-maintenance and algae-proof alternative to timber decking.
- **The Purbeck stone paths** have a textured finish to ensure that they are non-slip, long-lasting and will weather beautifully. Boulders from the same material are used as seating and low walls. The stone varies in colour and has a high fossil content.





Palisaded outer and inner timber fences provide shelter and privacy. The narrow, curved border planted with *Baccharis patagonica*, rosemary, *Leymus arenarius*, soaring *Eryngium pandanifolium* and grass *Anemanthele lessoniana* edges the lawn. The giant fig tree spreading over the wall offers a shady spot from the summer sun.

Colour is translated from the landscape, from the sandy yellow of the beach, the blue of the horizon

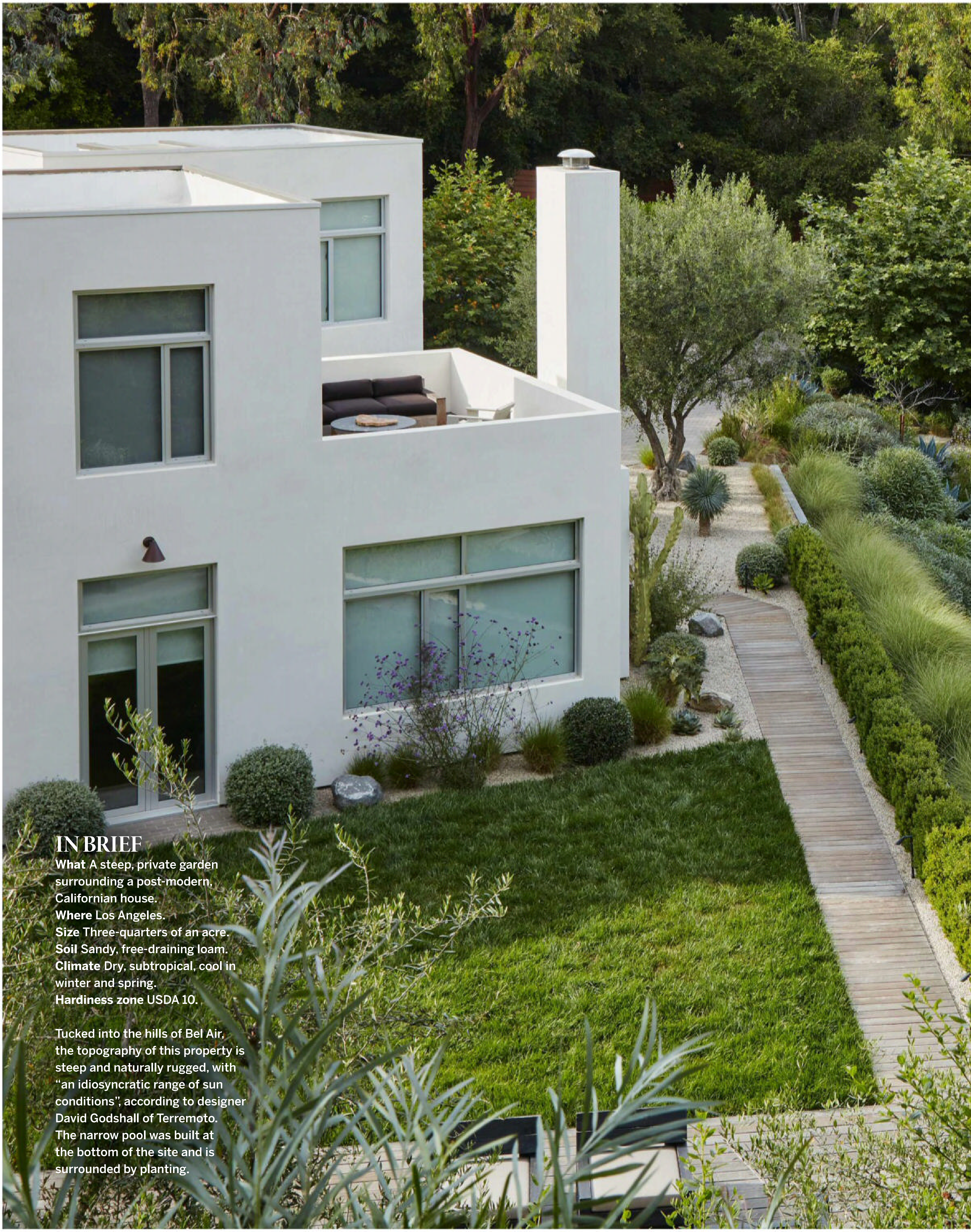
▷ and then nip back to the convenience of an outdoor shower.

Shelter is provided by boarded fences: an outer and an inner protective boundary, worn and roughened by marine invertebrates and reclaimed from a derelict pier further down the coast, reflecting the groins that stretch out along the beach. The castellations are carefully and strategically placed to offer privacy to sit in sunny spots, while shade is provided by the giant fig tree, with its bounteous crop of delicious fruit (and attendant swarms of late-summer wasps).

Easy, hardy shrubs and sub-shrubs, *Ceanothus arboreus* and *C. azureus* 'Concha', English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) and *Cistus* x *hybridus* are pierced with grasses: electric-blue dune grass *Leymus arenarius*, orange-tipped *Anemanthele lessoniana* and clumps of *Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue'. Beach plants *Eryngium maritimum*, sea kale (*Crambe maritima*), *Armeria maritima* 'In the Red' and sea campion (*Silene uniflora*) have slipped over the sea wall and feel at home.

Texture comes from the weathered timber and stone, from dried grasses, from evergreen and coniferous foliage and from tiny thymes and *Sedum album* 'Coral Carpet' growing between the cracks in paths. The limited colour is translated from the natural landscape, from the sandy yellow of the beach, the blue of the horizon and the sea on a summer's day, in the green of the local countryside, and reflected close-up in the small flowers, the umbellifers, poppies and daisies that grow in this garden.

The owners are so pleased, they have bought the house next door and Jo will extend the garden. "This is something all designers love: the chance to go back and look at the design again." ☐



IN BRIEF

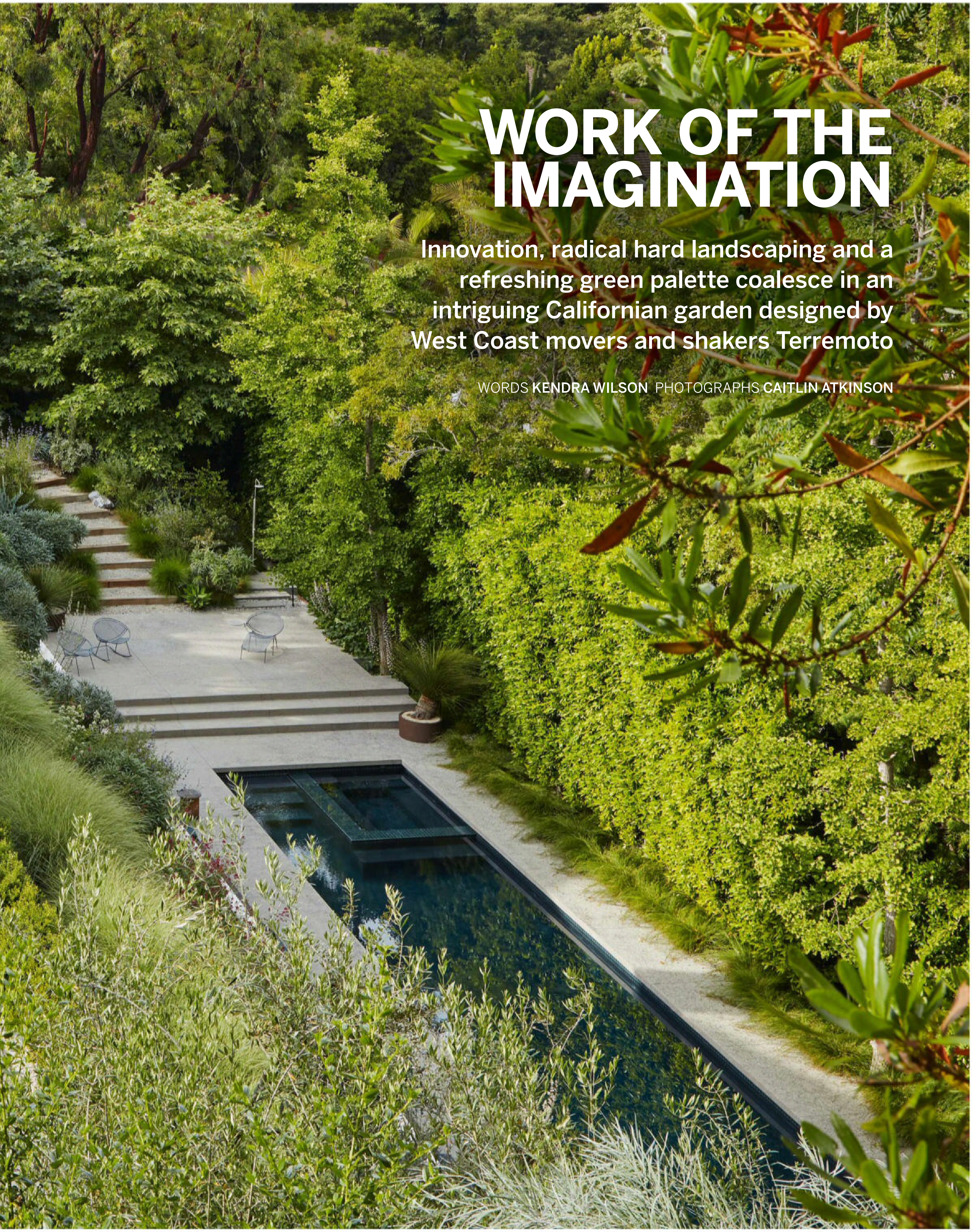
What A steep, private garden surrounding a post-modern, Californian house.
Where Los Angeles.
Size Three-quarters of an acre.
Soil Sandy, free-draining loam.
Climate Dry, subtropical, cool in winter and spring.
Hardiness zone USDA 10.

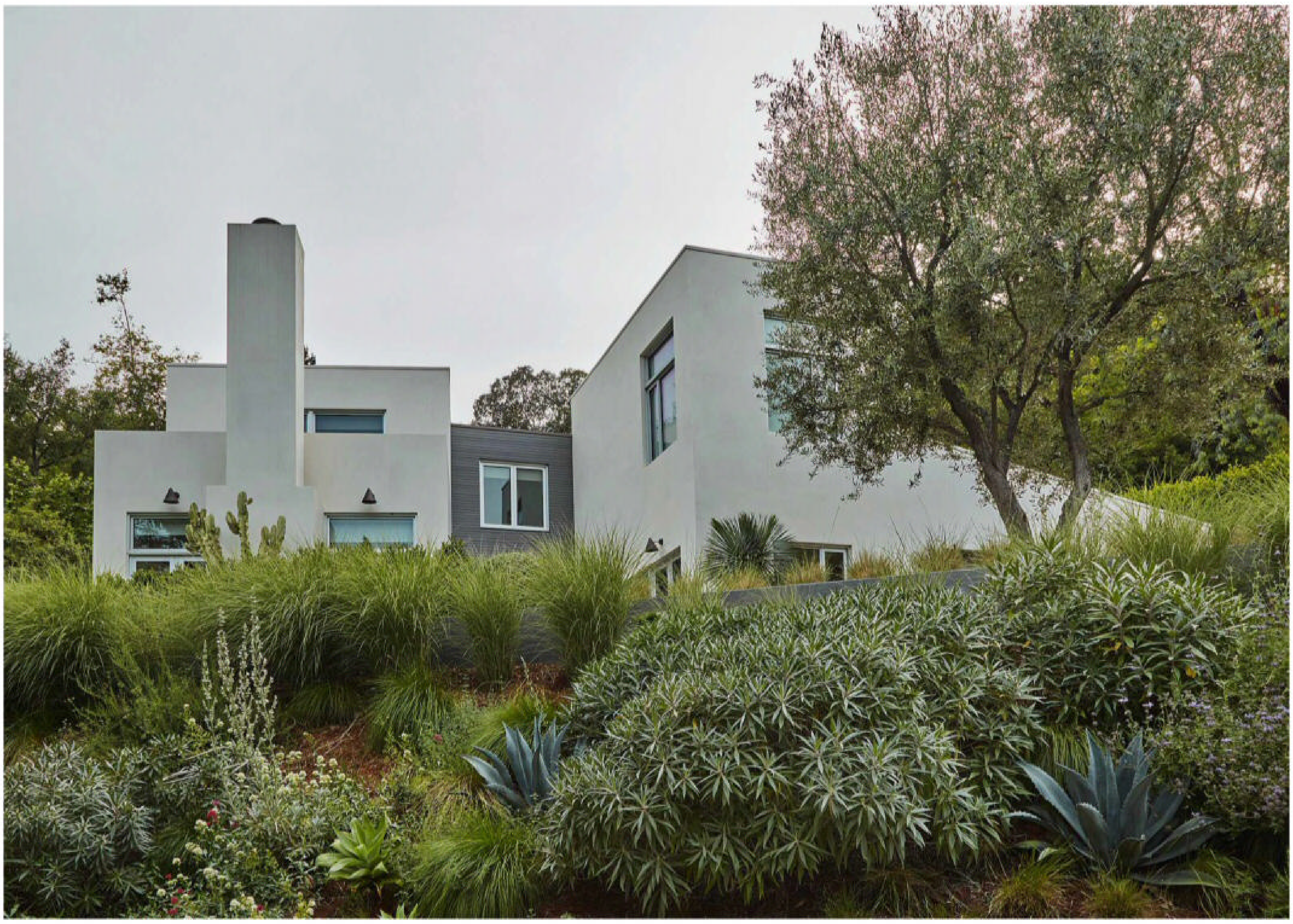
Tucked into the hills of Bel Air, the topography of this property is steep and naturally rugged, with "an idiosyncratic range of sun conditions", according to designer David Godshall of Terremoto. The narrow pool was built at the bottom of the site and is surrounded by planting.

WORK OF THE IMAGINATION

Innovation, radical hard landscaping and a refreshing green palette coalesce in an intriguing Californian garden designed by West Coast movers and shakers Terremoto

WORDS **KENDRA WILSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **CAITLIN ATKINSON**





Manicured and private are two words that come to mind when thinking of Bel Air, the prosperous neighbourhood on the west side of Los Angeles. Basking in the foothills of the Santa Monica mountains, Bel Air – as the name implies – is fresher and cooler than the urban valleys, including Hollywood and Downtown. Up here, reminders of the native landscape of Southern California are more apparent, with venerable trees, hill-covering chaparral (evergreen shrub communities) and coastal sage scrub. The wilderness of LA's more sedate neighbourhoods is generally upstaged, however, by green lawns and palm trees, of which only one species (*Washingtonia filifera*) is native to California.

This fairly large garden, hidden away on a side street, sits in a peaceful zone between nature and people. It is surrounded by California sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) and coastal live oaks (*Quercus agrifolias*), several of which reside on the property, having been there long before the post-modern house was built. "How one goes about 'garden-making' around these sentient trees was a primary concern of the project," recalls David Godshall of Terremoto, the West Coast's most engaging landscape design studio. At seven years old, Terremoto has been attracting interesting projects from its earliest days, including the Getty Museum – and this – a collaboration with ultra-chic interior designers and architects Studio Shamshiri, which the studio began in 2016.

David, who heads the LA office (his co-partner Alain Peauroi is based in San Francisco), loves construction and carpentry (he is a former retail designer) and there is a flourish in Terremoto's use of hard materials. A deck is never just a deck; here, it connects to a boardwalk set flush against grass and then gravel,

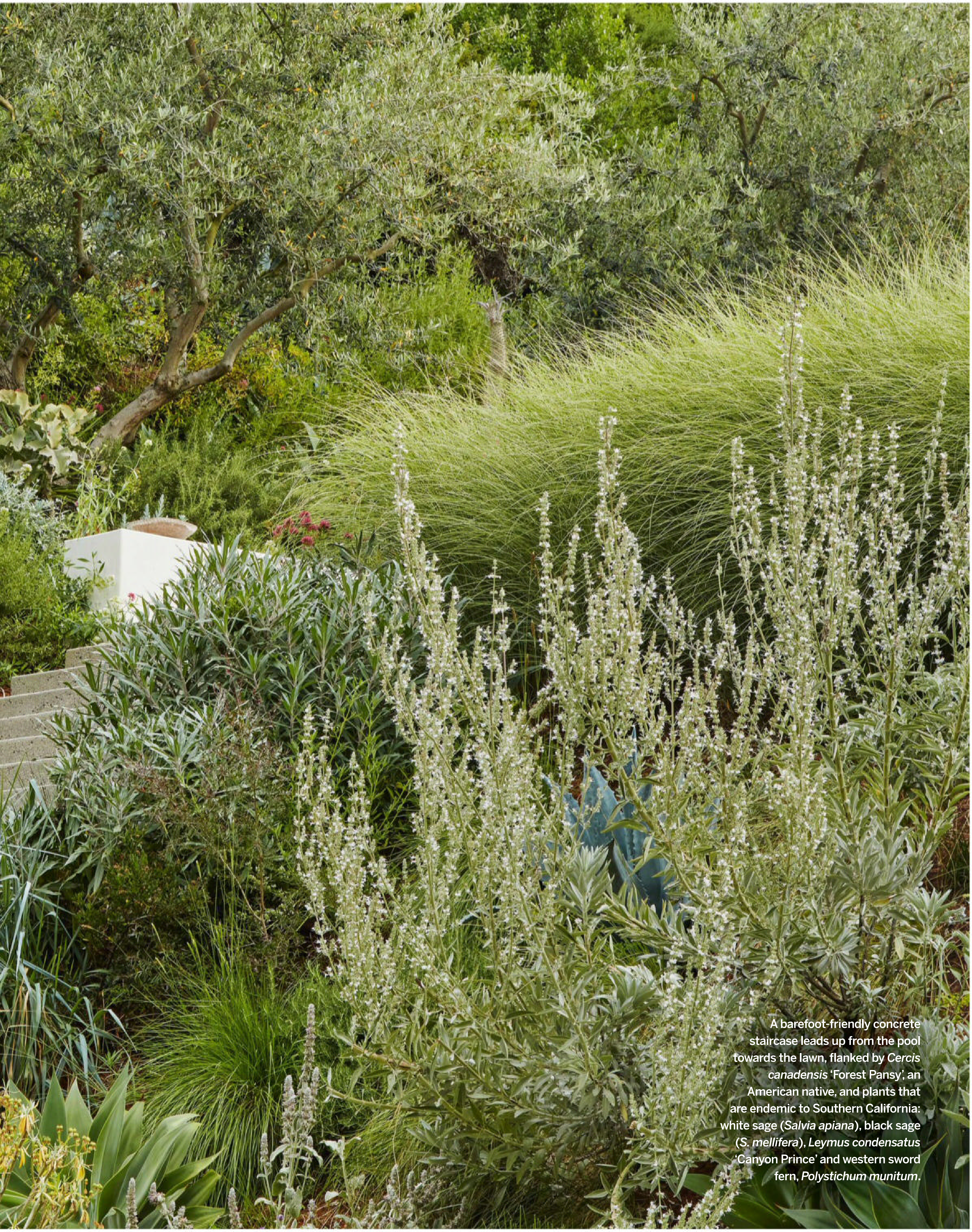
To continue turn to page 95 ▷

Above The hillside, looking up from a timber stairway leading to the pool. *Agave attenuata* and larger, toothed *A. americana* are scattered amid *Echium fastuosum* and native sage (*Salvia apiana* and *S. clevelandii*), before stopping at a line of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light' and a box hedge.

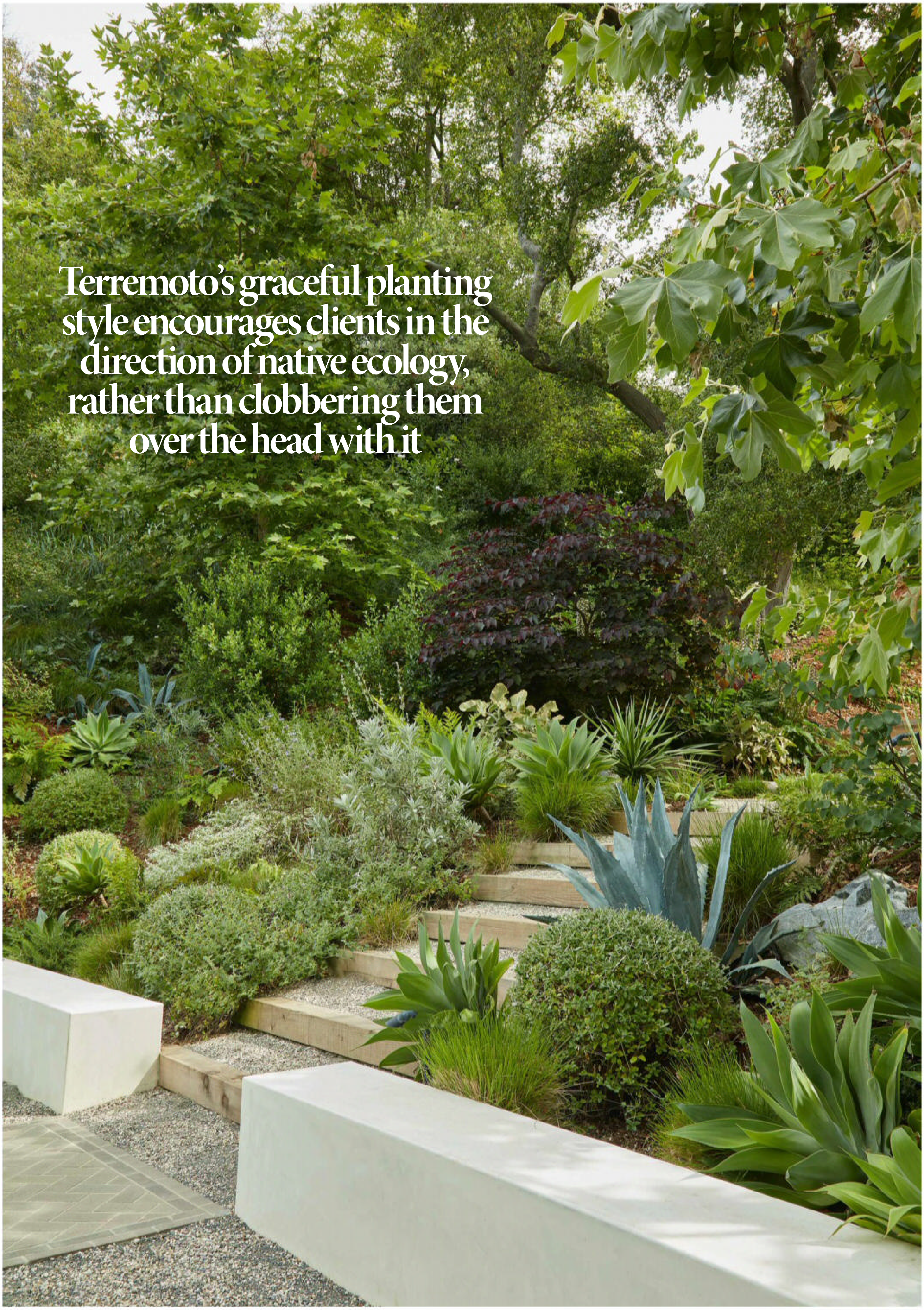
Right By the house, gravel is mapped out with boulders, an angled boardwalk and a gnarled olive tree (*Olea europaea*). Mop-headed *Yucca rostrata* lends some verve to rounds of clipped *Teucrium fruticans*. *Euphorbia ammak* brings some yellow to the silvery-green palette.

There is a flourish in the use of hard materials, textural horizontals reacting with the smooth, perpendicular planes of the house

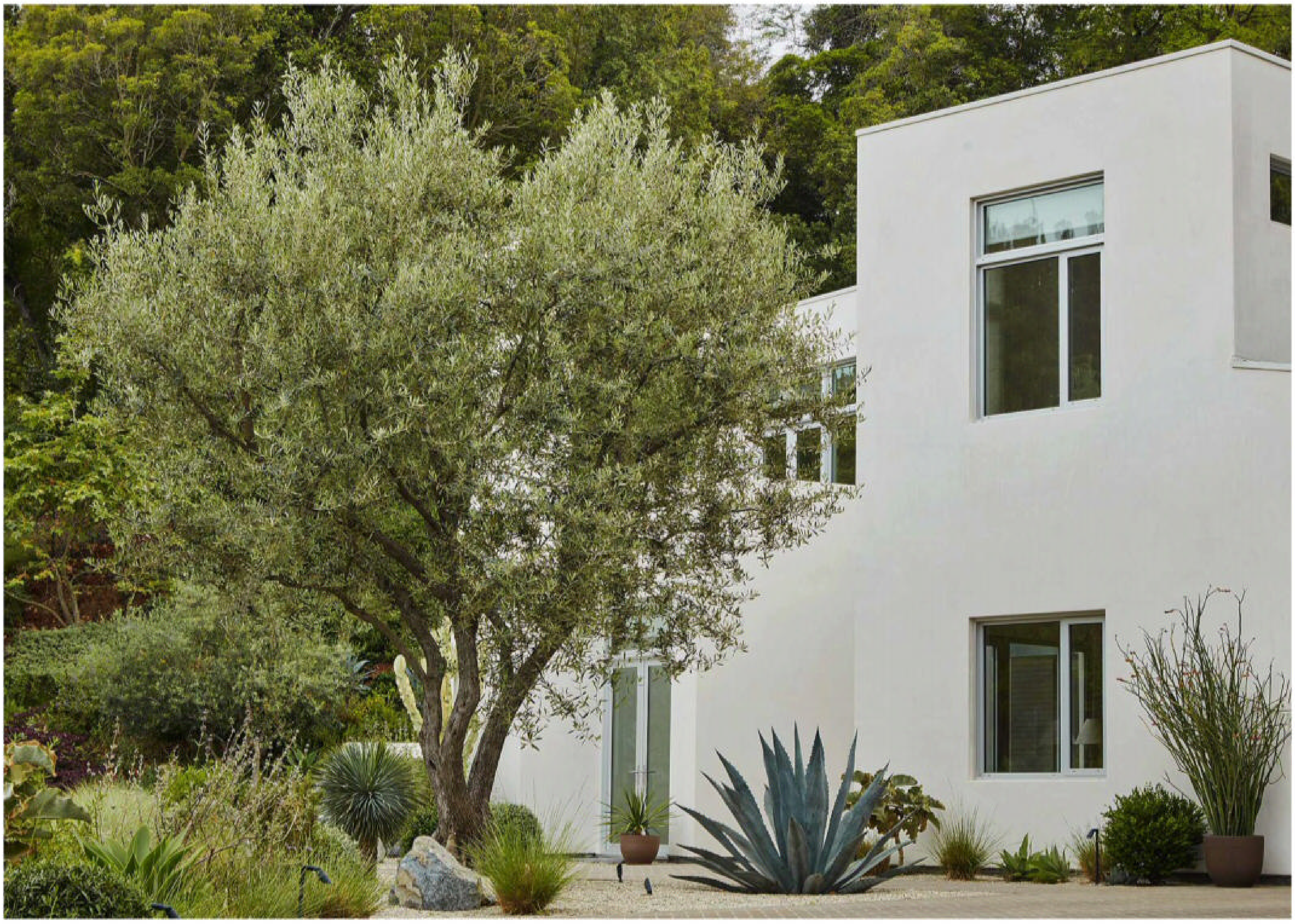
There are Mediterranean moments, desert moments and nods towards the new perennial movement – all pulled together with California natives



A barefoot-friendly concrete staircase leads up from the pool towards the lawn, flanked by *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', an American native, and plants that are endemic to Southern California: white sage (*Salvia apiana*), black sage (*S. mellifera*), *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince' and western sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*.



Terremoto's graceful planting style encourages clients in the direction of native ecology, rather than clobbering them over the head with it



▷ these textural horizontals reacting with the smooth, perpendicular planes of the house. It is a showcase for specimen trees, shrubs and succulents, before plant life tumbles down the hillside in a more disordered throng. Terremoto – more of a collective than two principals and staff – has a keen appreciation of boulders, and a fondness for agaves, particularly *Agave attenuata* along with scatterings of toothed *A. americana*.

"We use agaves because they're strong, structural elements that can act as aesthetic exclamation points or asterisks, within landscapes of texture, or fields," says David. "They're tough, don't complain, and can provide a sense of lushness in what is actually a very low-water landscape."

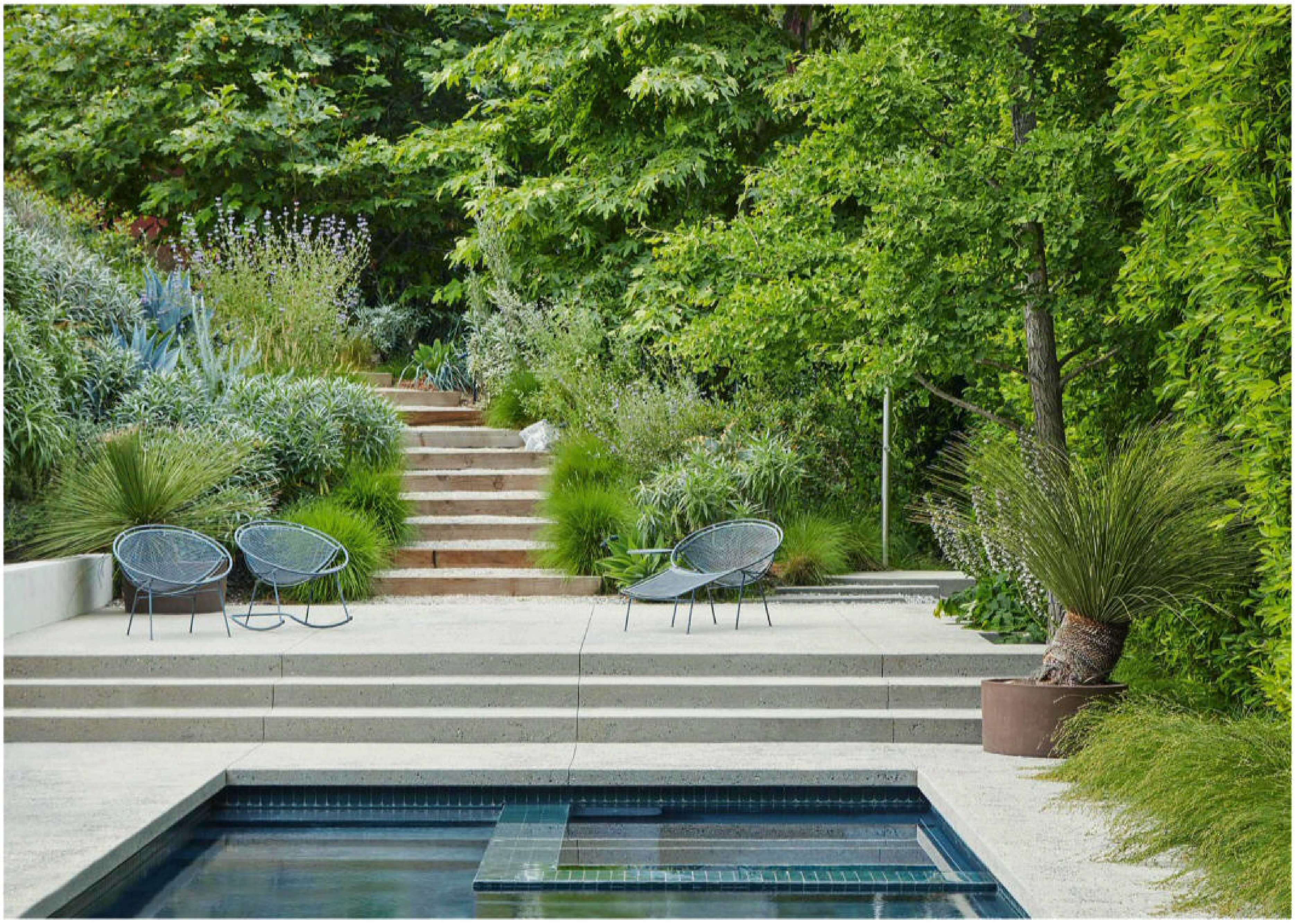
This brings us, inevitably, to the subject of lawns and pools. An irregular quadrilateral of grass, its geometry reinforced by a line of box, comprises the most formal part of the garden. "Lawns in California are a dangerous topic," says David. "We infrequently grant them to people under two conditions: one, that they are scaled appropriately and two, that they are used. Small, thoughtfully sized lawns that people use regularly are acceptable in our book."

Swimming pools, in Terremoto's hands, are not about ostentation either: this one is removed from the house, and sits serenely at the bottom of a ravine. "We like to surround pools with hardscape that has texture and personality," says David, who is not a great fan of infinity edges. "We'd rather wrap a pool in planting, so that when you swim, you're surrounded by vegetation."

Around the pool, further sunken by gracefully wide steps, all is smooth underfoot, *Carex divulsa* flopping along one side, and a well-placed Mexican grass tree (*Dasylirion longissimum*) spilling out of a pot. Between the pool and the house is what David best describes as "a wild, textural, native hillside of sage and lavender" that is stopped dead in its tracks at the top by the formal box hedge. The native hillside is mainly made up of three endemic sages, ▷

Above "Our climate is sufficiently hot and dry that succulents tend to perform beautifully," says David. "The yuccas bring a welcome psychedelic element." Between *Yucca rostrata* by the olive tree and *Euphorbia bracteata* shooting out of a pot by the house, sits a large, toothed *Agave americana*.

Left A hillside "of intentional randomness", intersected by timber and gravel steps. Silvery shrubs mingle with the full-bodied textures of fresh-green *Agave attenuata* and glaucous *A. americana*. *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' is a foil for spiky *Dracaena draco* and the seaweed-like succulent *Kalanchoe beharensis*.



▷ Southern California's coastal scrub: *Salvia apiana*, *S. clevelandii* and *S. mellifera*. Around some narrower steps, which make possible a quick dash from pool to dining area with bare feet, the mostly green-and-silver planting is enhanced by *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', "the shade of a booming Cabernet". The main set of steps down to the pool by the front of the house mixes more sage with rounds of *Lolium mairei* from Morocco and *Echium fastuosum* from Madeira.

With its hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters, California has been identified as having a 'Mediterranean' climate. Mediterranean plants thrive here; as a term, however, it is used for describing five regions in the world that are considered biodiversity hotspots. Sharing a similar latitude and occurring on the western edges of continents, these regions are glorious for plants but also fatally attractive to humans. Terremoto (Spanish for earthquake) is keen to "softly" push people in the direction of native ecology, instead of clobbering them over the head with it. "In this project you see dribs and drabs of various typologies dancing together," says David. "There are Mediterranean moments, desert and cactus moments, nods towards the new perennial movement – all the while being pulled together with California natives."

Notions of beauty need to change, he says, and there are signs that they are changing. The Terremoto manifesto (which makes compelling reading) describes the firm's approach as 'critically regionalist and respectfully inflammatory' but also 'post-internet'. With all its downsides, David explains, the constant sharing of information has had a liberating effect, so that people are no longer held hostage to what is in and what is out. "Everything is there for the taking; you just have to do it well." ❑

Above *Dasylirion longissimum* spills out of a pot by the swimming pool, between a gingko tree and a fringe of *Carex divulsa*. The hedge is *Ficus benjamina*. Behind the vintage wire chairs, a staircase of timber and gravel is flanked by *Pennisetum sphacelatum* and *Echium fastuosum*.

Right *Olea europaea*'s silvery palette is picked up in the lower storey with *Centranthus ruber* and *C. ruber* 'Albus' fuzzying the strong shapes of agaves. Common rosemary, *Salvia rosmarinus*, is joined by shrubby *Ceanothus griseus* var. *horizontalis* 'Yankee Point', a California native.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Terremoto's work at **terremoto.la**

The constant sharing of information has had a liberating effect, so that people are no longer held hostage to what is in and what is out – everything is there for the taking

Advertisement

Dawn digs deep with the help of **TURMERIC+**

As every keen gardener knows, kneeling down is part and parcel of the job, so it's essential to be able to comfortably bend your knees.

"I was **amazed**. In just a few weeks, I felt like I used to."

Being an enthusiastic horticulturist, it's only fitting that Dawn Schier unearthed the power of the plant world when looking for ways to keep her active so she could continue to enjoy her hobby.

"My interest in gardening was inherited from my father," recounted Dawn.

"My dad had an allotment and it was there that I inherited his passion for growing fruit and vegetables. For our family, it became part of an everyday healthy lifestyle that we all enjoyed."

Dawn began to have trouble continuing to garden when she noticed her knees were not as flexible as they used to be, so she decided to do something about it. It was this decision that led her to Turmeric+ from FutureYou Cambridge.

The spice turmeric has long been popular in traditional Indian medicine and is recognised as one of nature's superfoods. The key active component of turmeric is curcumin. However curcumin is not easily absorbed by the body.

The need for easy absorption is what led the scientists at FutureYou Cambridge to create Turmeric+ using the patented 'Curcuma Phospholipid Complex' formulation. It's thirty times more absorbable than standard turmeric and contains vitamin C, which contributes to normal collagen formation for the normal function of cartilage.

Dawn continues, "Although I eat a healthy diet and take plenty of exercise, I was finding even walking around the block caused discomfort. I decided I needed to find something else to provide a helping hand so I started taking Turmeric+."

"I was amazed. In just a few weeks, I felt like I used to. It was the only change I made to my lifestyle, so there was no other explanation for the dramatic difference."

Dawn is now able to fully enjoy her lifelong hobby to its full potential again, growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Whilst she reaps the benefits of all she grows, her favourite is asparagus. Dawn said,

"I specialised in growing asparagus some while ago and the other allotment holders have nicknamed me the 'Asparagus Queen'".

"I love working on my allotment, it provides a good social life, but most importantly it's where I feel completely relaxed and can enjoy some time to myself."

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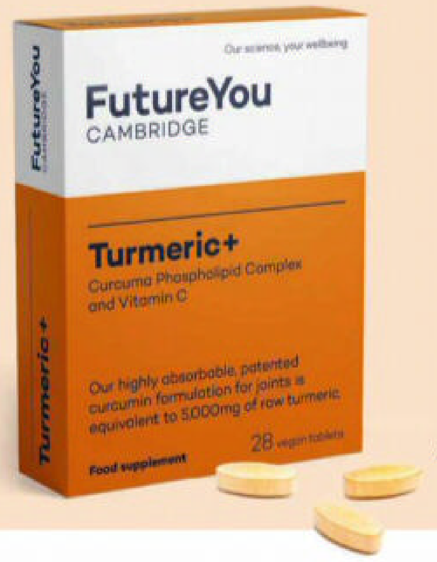
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'The product appears to meet all its promises and the service levels from FutureYou Cambridge is first class,' said another.

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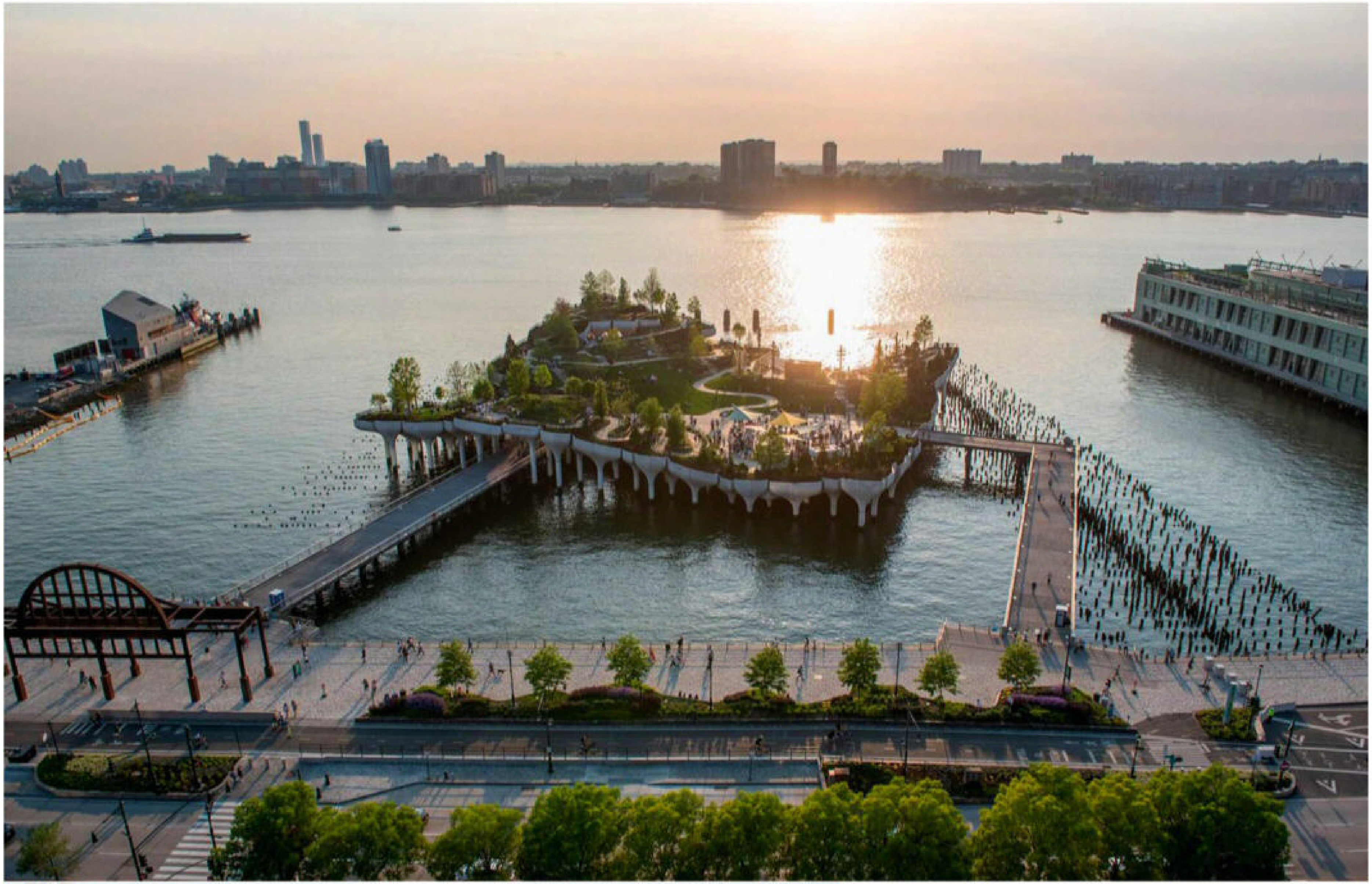
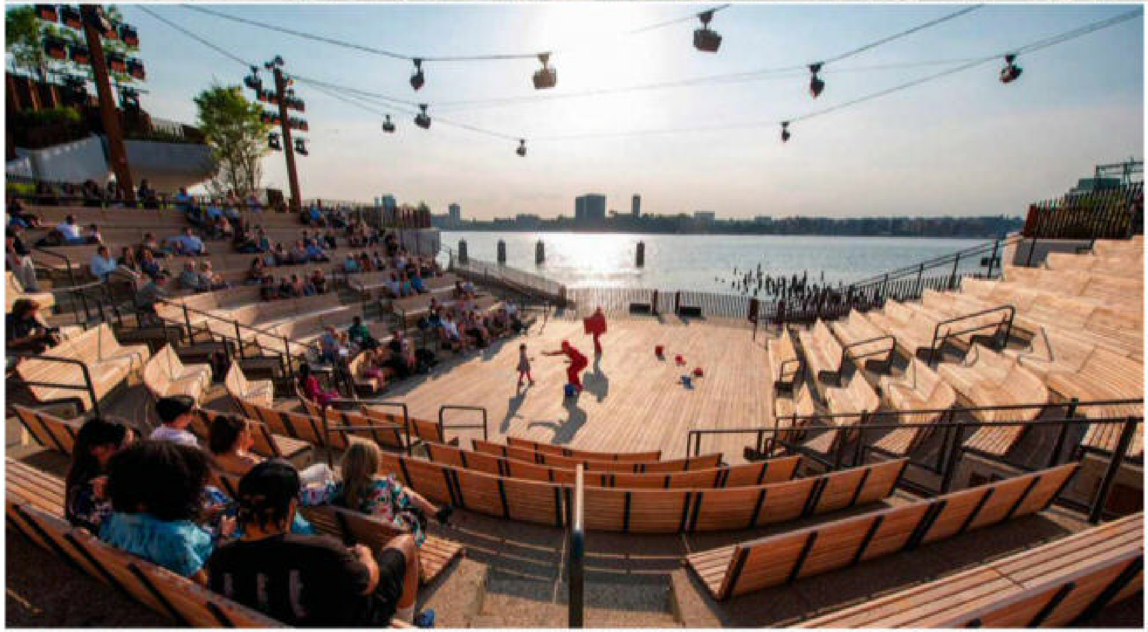
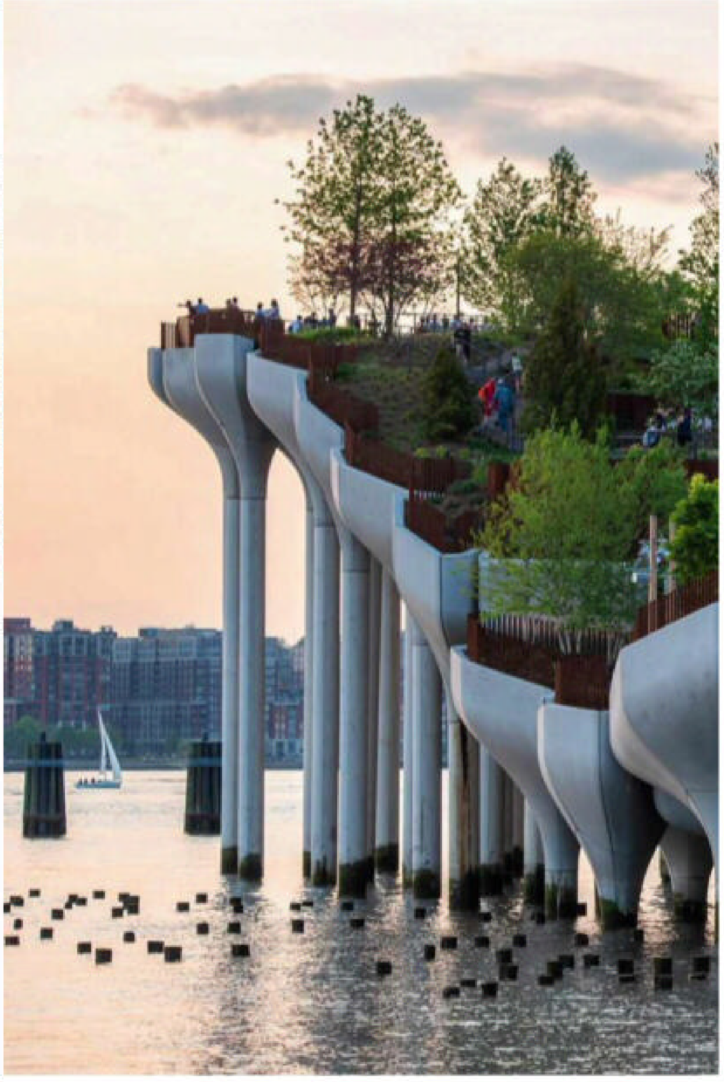
Design

News and sourcebook







LITTLE ISLAND LANDSCAPE

Little Island, a public park space on the site of Pier 55 on New York's Hudson River is now open – eight years after it was first proposed. Designed by Thomas Heatherwick, the undulating park is planted with 100 types of tree, with evergreens providing shelter from the wind, and 400 other species. The planting frames the park and sits in 6m-wide containers fitted into a series of modular 'petals' on top of piles that have been driven more than 60m down into the bedrock. The interior of the park contains areas of lawn and a 700-seat amphitheatre. **hudsonriverpark.org**

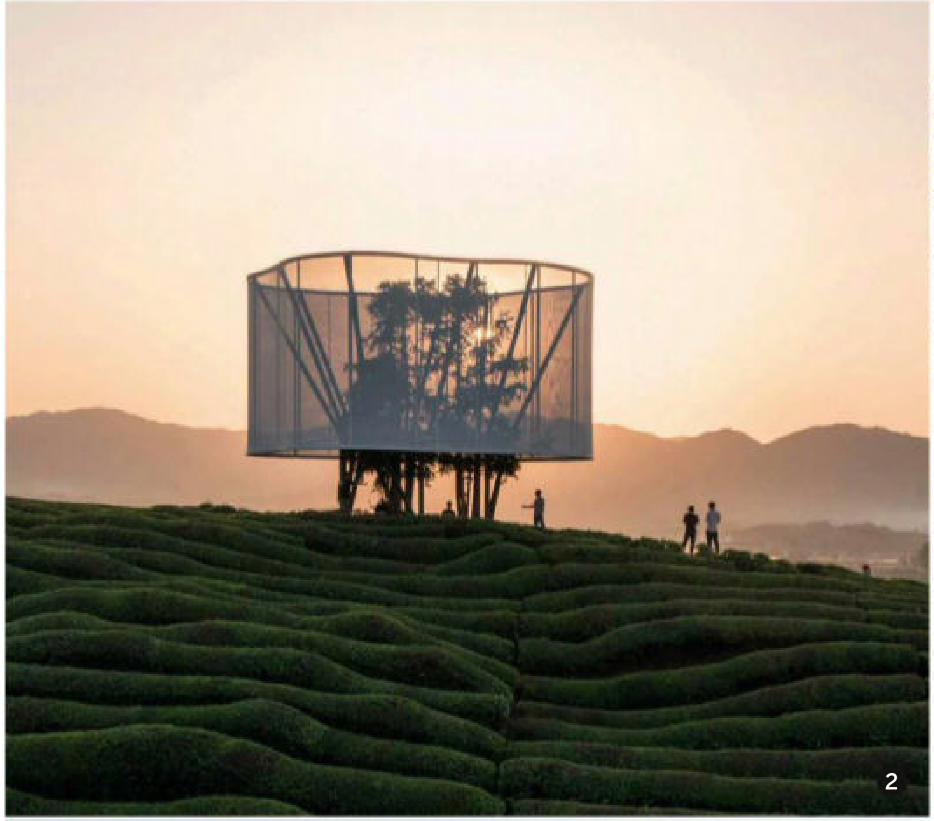
TIMOTHY SCHENCK

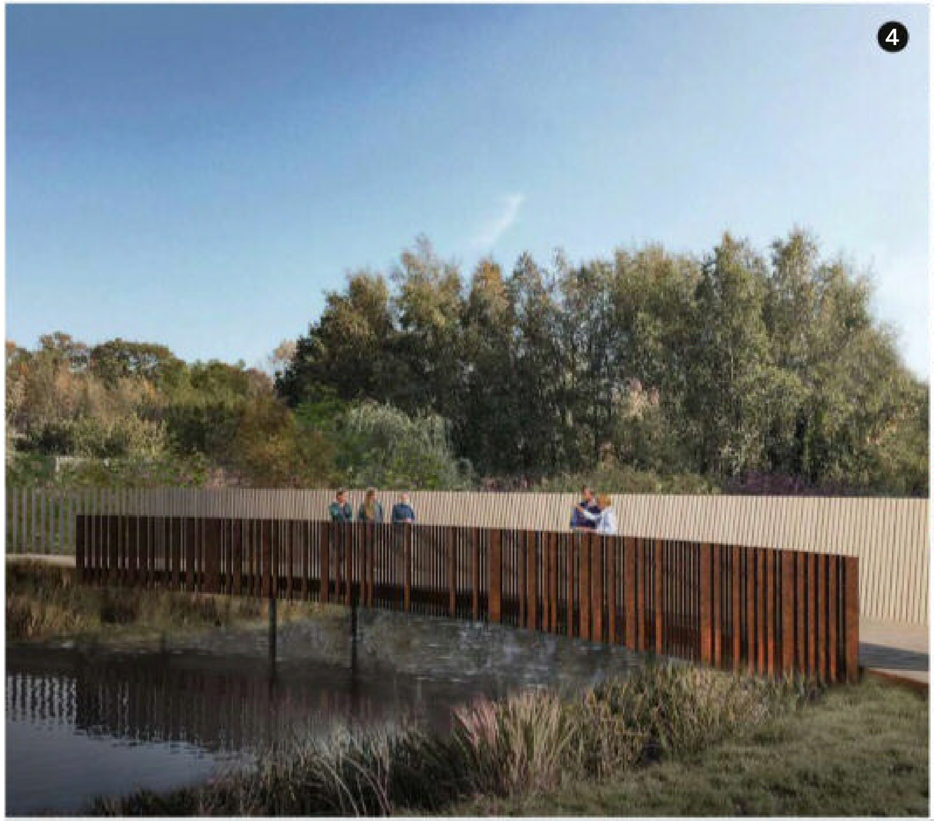
News

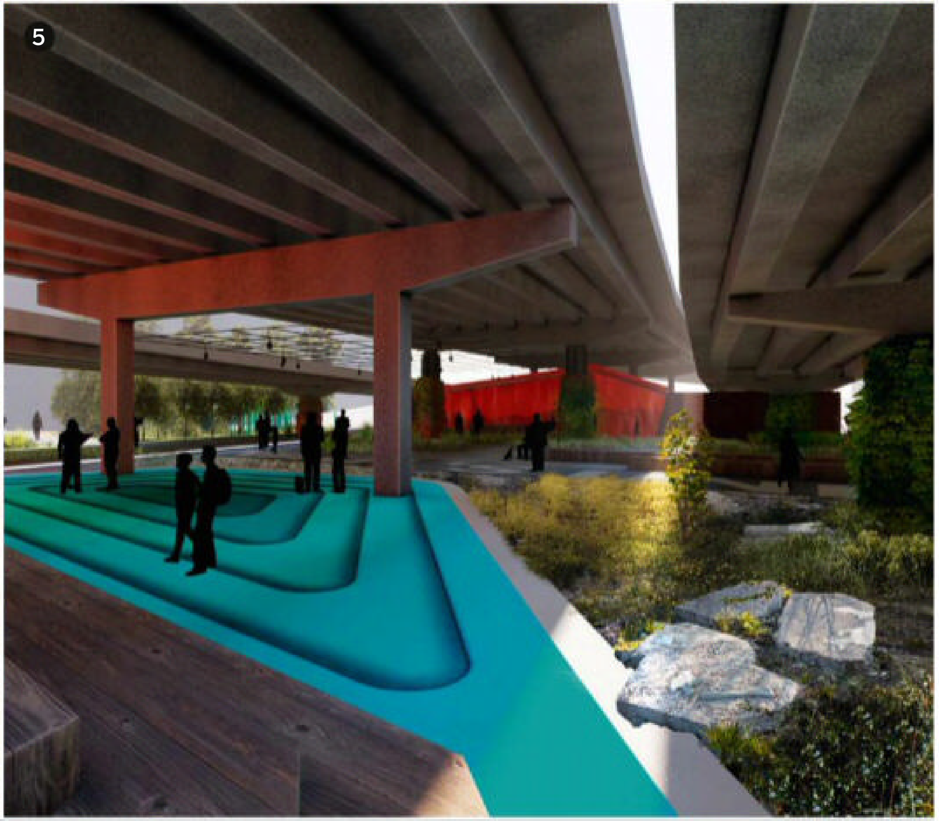
COMPILED BY **ANNIE GATTI**

① LIVING AND BREATHING THE VENICE BIENNALE

Danish architecture studio EFFEKT is represented at this year's Venice Biennale with an installation of 1,200 pine seedlings, grown hydroponically, to provide a green lung for models of seven projects relating to the festival theme 'How will we live together?'. These include (clockwise from above) the Forest Tower in Gisselfeld Klosters Forest, a harbour farm port regeneration project in Copenhagen and the Forest Learning Hub on a hilltop at Hareskoven. The saplings will eventually be planted in Denmark as part of an urban reforestation project. The installation is on display at Corderie dell'Arsenale, Venice Architecture Biennale, until 21 November. **effekt.dk**







② NIGHT LIGHT

A light installation that doubled as a pavilion for visitors to the Art at Fuliang 2021 Festival, held in Jiangxi province, China, in June, now stands as an artwork for the nearby villagers. Designed by Chinese architect Ma Yansong, the founder of MAD Architects, the artwork is comprised of an undulating steel cylinder, which is wrapped in a translucent fabric. The structure encloses an existing copse of trees on top of a hill in a tea field and gives the impression that the trees are floating above the tea plants. At night the artwork is lit up like a giant lantern. **i-mad.com**

③ SOUTH AFRICAN SHOWCASE

The Eden Project's indoor South Africa garden is opening up a previously inaccessible part of the temperate Mediterranean Biome and increasing the planting with endangered plants of the Cape Floristic Region of the South Western Cape. A new path will wind through areas planted with succulents, shrubs and restios, past the existing Pepsi Pool (so named because of the tannins in the water), which is full of *Aponogeton distachyos*. The stream leading to the pool will also be opened up, creating additional micro-habitats for moisture-loving species. **edenproject.com**

④ THALIANA BRIDGE, HARLOW CARR

Work is due to begin this autumn on the construction of a new bridge spanning the Queen Mother Lake at the south end of RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Yorkshire. The 21m-long bridge, in weathering steel and larch, is designed by Gagarin Studio and DP Squared Engineers. The paired, curving forms make reference to the chromosomes of the native plant thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), the research subject of the late Dr Rachel Leech, whose estate has helped to fund the bridge. The project will improve the flow of people in the garden and provide new views to and from the bridge. **gagarinstudio.co.uk**

⑤ GREEN CORRIDOR FOR COVENTRY

Planting is under way on the site of a disused gasworks and underpass in Coventry, transforming it into a 700m linear park connecting Belgrade Plaza in the city centre to Naul's Mill Park. Designed by Barton Willmore, the park, which includes more than 1,000 trees and 23,000 shrubs, recreates Radford Brook, currently underground in a culvert, which will run on the surface and be planted with native, aquatic species. At the southern end of the route, the underpass culminates in an amphitheatre, climbing wall, and columns clad in climbing plants. **bartonwillmore.co.uk**

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One of our most popular courses, led by master horticulturist Ben Pope, which aims to take each student through all the practical elements of caring for a garden from soil, tools, maintenance, seed sowing and propagating, weed control and pests and diseases. The first 3 days will be spent at the Chelsea Physic Garden and the final day will be spent gaining practical experience in Rosemary Alexander's much praised garden near Petersfield and the garden nearby, where Ben is in charge. Participants will be given a chance to prune, plant, sow seeds and regular maintenance tasks will be discussed. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided daily.

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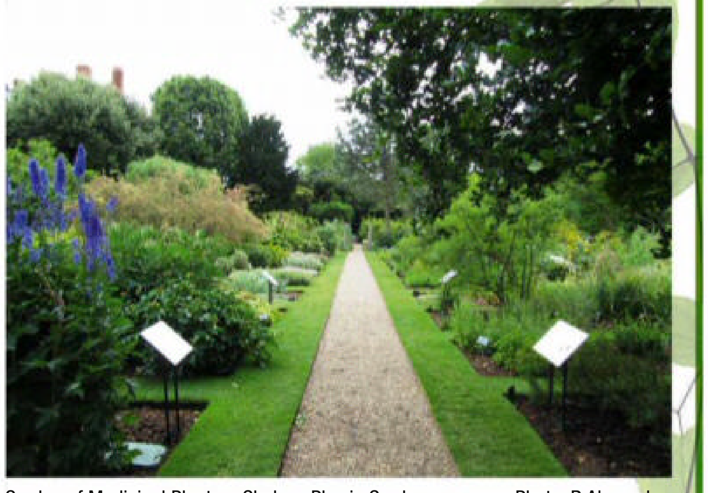

Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

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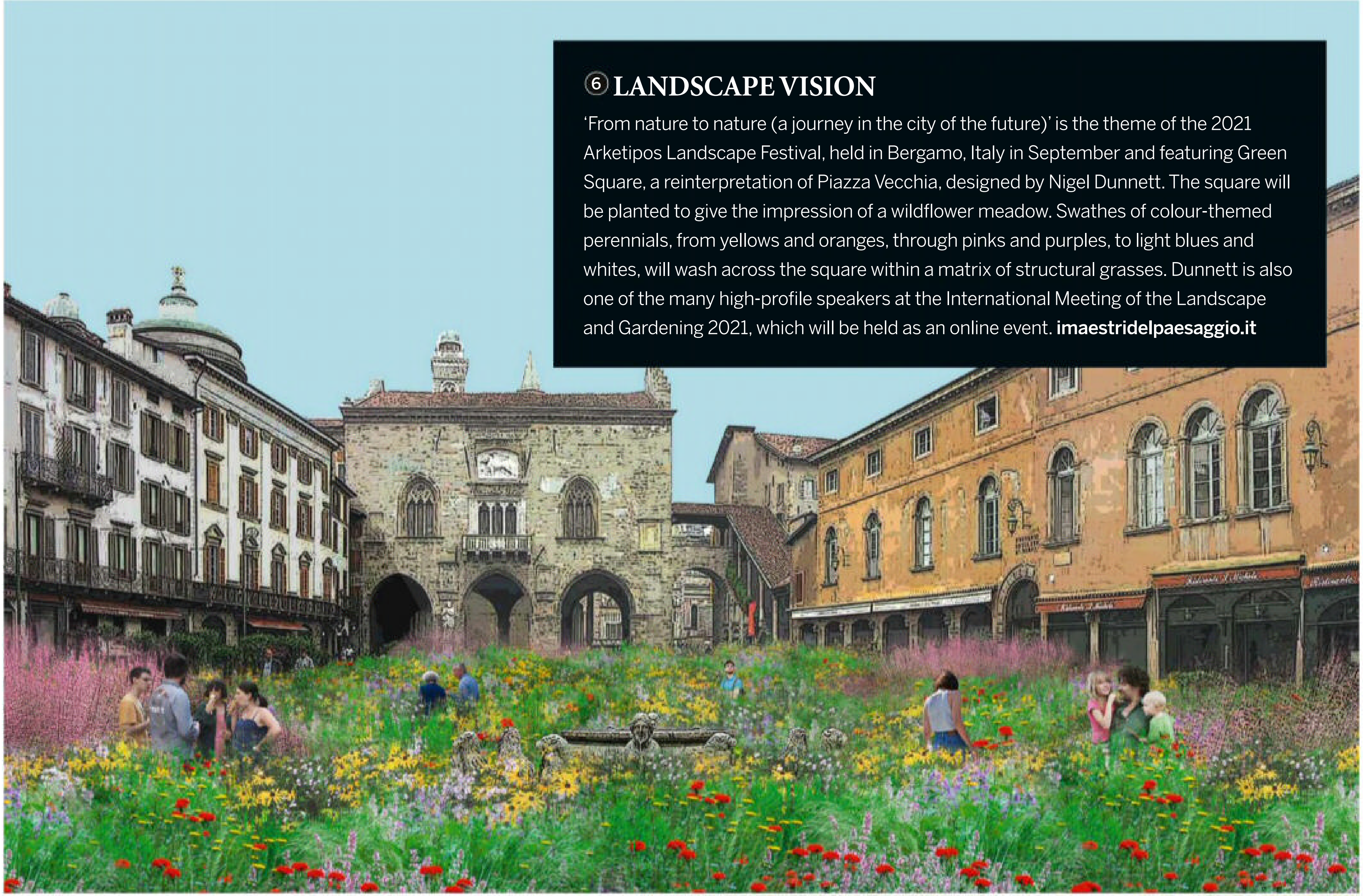
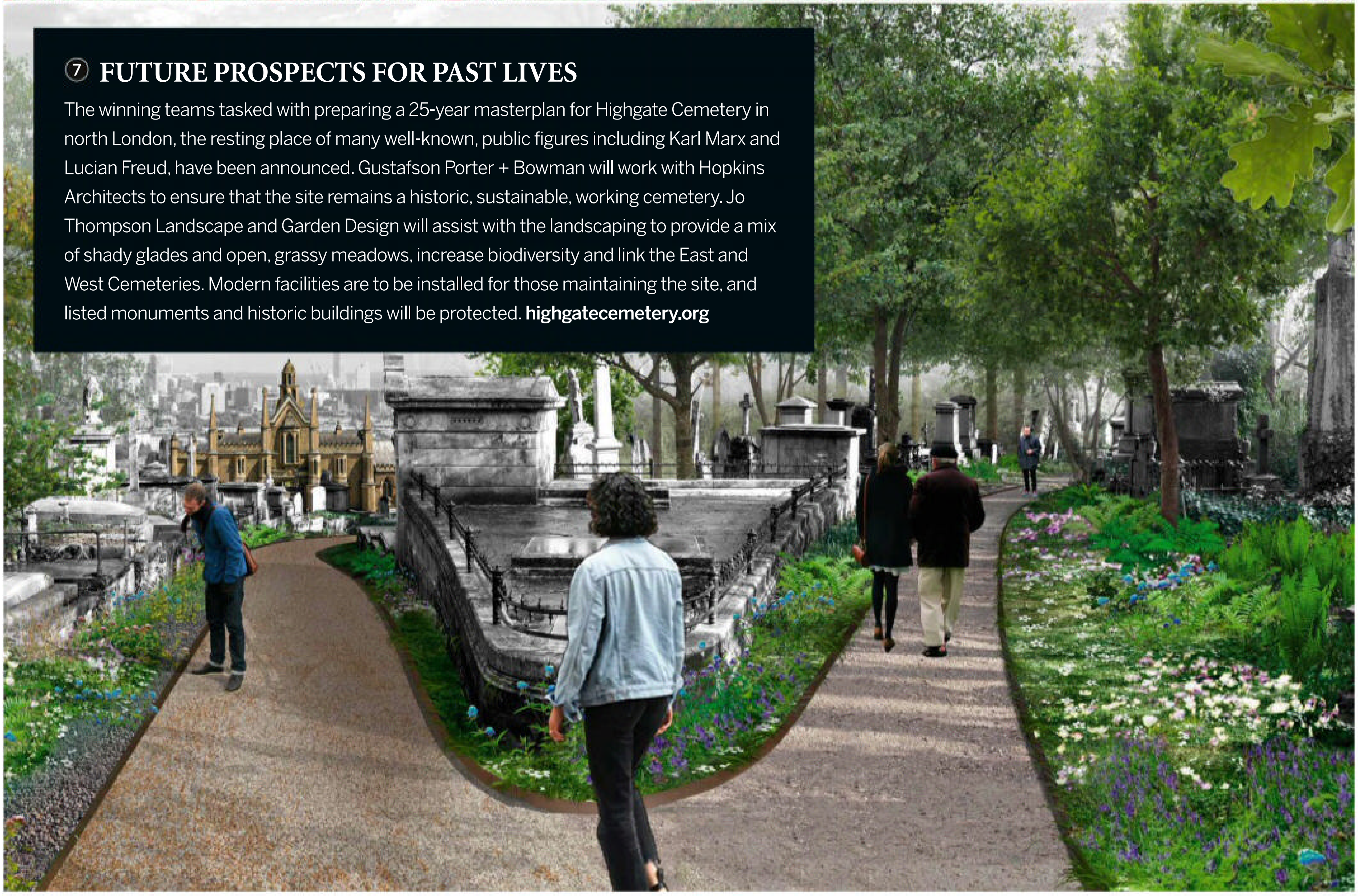


⑥ LANDSCAPE VISION

'From nature to nature (a journey in the city of the future)' is the theme of the 2021 Arketipos Landscape Festival, held in Bergamo, Italy in September and featuring Green Square, a reinterpretation of Piazza Vecchia, designed by Nigel Dunnett. The square will be planted to give the impression of a wildflower meadow. Swathes of colour-themed perennials, from yellows and oranges, through pinks and purples, to light blues and whites, will wash across the square within a matrix of structural grasses. Dunnett is also one of the many high-profile speakers at the International Meeting of the Landscape and Gardening 2021, which will be held as an online event. **imaestridelpaesaggio.it**



⑦ FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR PAST LIVES

The winning teams tasked with preparing a 25-year masterplan for Highgate Cemetery in north London, the resting place of many well-known, public figures including Karl Marx and Lucian Freud, have been announced. Gustafson Porter + Bowman will work with Hopkins Architects to ensure that the site remains a historic, sustainable, working cemetery. Jo Thompson Landscape and Garden Design will assist with the landscaping to provide a mix of shady glades and open, grassy meadows, increase biodiversity and link the East and West Cemeteries. Modern facilities are to be installed for those maintaining the site, and listed monuments and historic buildings will be protected. **highgatecemetery.org**

6 JACK DUNNETT; 7 GUSTAFSON PORTER + BOWMAN

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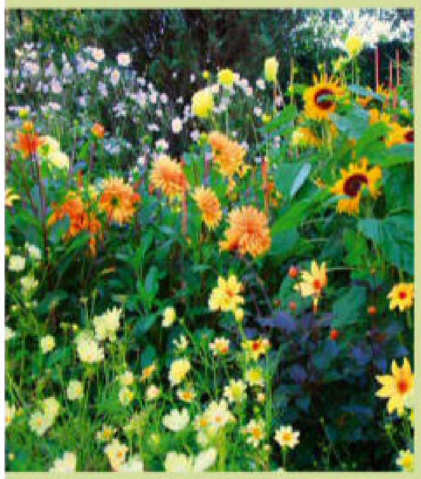

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The British Honey Company is a UK-based producer of spirits, honey and jams, producing 13 honey products and 16 spirits. With this amazing offer you can sample three delicious flavours for the price of one bottle!

YOU'RE SIMPLY THE BEE'S KNEES!

The Bee's Knees is a cocktail created in prohibition America by Austrian-born bartender Frank Meier, who plied his trade at the Ritz in Paris in 1921. The phrase 'bee's knees' is a slang term meaning 'simply the best'. Give it a go and see if you agree!

- **Ingredients**

2oz of a gin of your choice

¾oz lemon juice, freshly squeezed

½oz honey syrup

- **Method**

1. Honey syrup is easy to make. Mix equal measures of honey and water in a small saucepan and stir over a medium heat until honey is dissolved. Allow to cool and keep in a container for up to a month.

2. Pour the gin, lemon juice and honey syrup into a shaker with ice and shake until well chilled.

3. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass and garnish with a lemon twist.

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3 COLOURFUL PLANTS FOR SHADY AREAS

Many plants happily grow in a shaded area. But the more colourful the plant, or the leaves, the more they will stand out in a dark corner. Consider these three bright beauties for a shadowy site in your garden:

1. *Lamprocapnos*, or bleeding heart (right) – delightful pinky-red, heart-shaped droopy flowers.

2. Iconic bluebells aren't just for spotting as you walk in the wood – they stun in a shady garden corner too.

3. *Chaenomeles speciosa*, or japanese quince – a shrub with shiny green leaves and small red flowers followed by tiny, palatable green or yellow apples.

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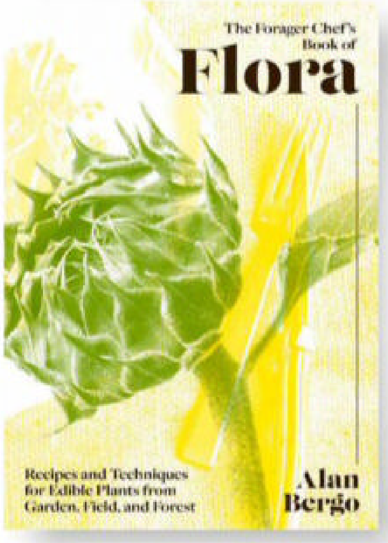
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, reader offer, crossword, back issues, a weekend in…

Essential kitchen tools, a painting in acrylic by Jane Cumberbatch, used as an illustration in her new book *Pure Style in the Garden: Creating an Outdoor Haven*, reviewed on page 113.

JANE CUMBERBATCH



The Forager Chef's Book of
Flora
Recipes and Techniques for Edible Plants from Garden, Field, and Forest
Alan Bergo

THE FORAGER CHEF'S BOOK OF FLORA
by Alan Bergo

Chelsea Green Publishing Co, £27
ISBN 978-1603589482

Forager-chef Alan Bergo's 'root-to-seed' approach to plants looks at edibles in a completely new way and opens up a whole new world of flavours.

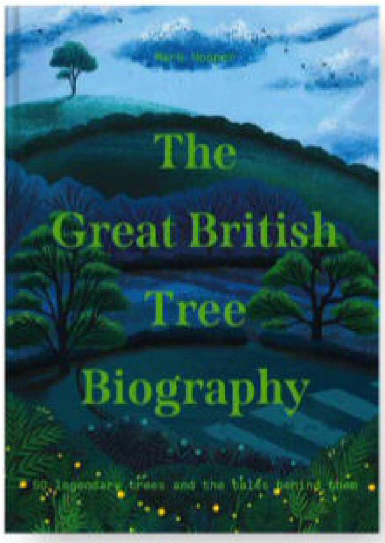
Reviewer Aaron Bertlesen is Great Dixter's gardener-cook.

As a gardener, I have spent a lot of my life on all fours weeding. Thanks to this fascinating book, I am looking forward to spending a little less time wielding trowel and hoe, and a little more enjoying the intriguing flavours of what the French call *plantes spontanées*. So much more appealing – and more accurate – than referring to them as 'weeds'.

Alan Bergo weaves together botany, cultural history and gastronomy in this guide to making the most not only of neglected plants but of the parts of everyday vegetables that would normally be consigned to the compost bin, such as broccoli stems. He also explores the potential for using plants at different stages of their lives – unripe pumpkins, say, or milkweed – from the first shoots of spring to the seedpods, encouraging us to develop what he calls a 'hunter's eye'. At the same time he is careful to point out the potential risks of foraging and to urge readers to consult a proper guide before heading for the hedgerows. He also stresses the need to leave plenty behind, for pollinators and to ensure the sustainability of the plant.

Above all, though, Bergo is concerned with flavour, and with making the most of plants in the kitchen. The book includes useful, short guides to techniques such as fermentation, steaming, dehydrating and maceration, as well as a great range of imaginative and inspiring recipes, from sunflower 'artichokes' to hosta kimchi. I was particularly drawn to dishes such as the wild green cakes – a blueprint that can be adapted throughout the year, as different plants come into season. And I would pay good money for a bowl of Bergo's hickory-nut ice-cream.

This is a genuinely thought-provoking and original book, and one I look forward to using both in my kitchen and my garden. From now on I will think more carefully about what I am 'weeding' out and how I can make best use of the garden's neglected treasures.



Mark Hooper
The Great British Tree Biography
50 legendary trees and the tales behind them

THE GREAT BRITISH TREE BIOGRAPHY
by Mark Hooper

Pavilion, £16.99
ISBN 978-1911641339

An eclectic guide to 50 remarkable British trees and their place in myth, folklore, history, literature, sport and pop culture.

Reviewer Emily Males is a freelance writer.

The Great British Tree Biography is the quirky work of journalist Mark Hooper, whose byline normally appears in the fashion press on interviews with cultural figures such as pop artist Sir Peter Blake and musician Jarvis Cocker; it is by no means your average book on trees.

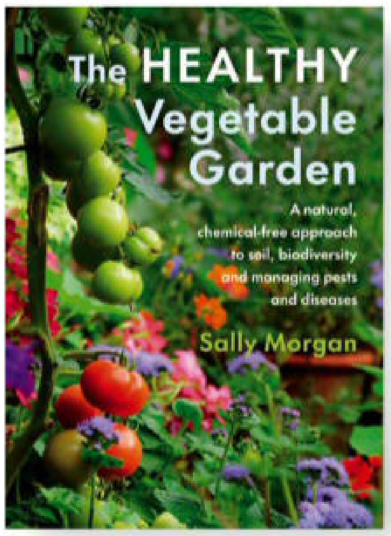
By his own admission, Hooper is a decidedly amateur dendrophile, and he pays due homage to experts such as historian and arborist Thomas Pakenham, but he has clearly been extremely interested in trees for a very long time. The result is an eclectic miscellany of essays on 50 British trees that roams the hinterland between social history and natural history and will supply you with enough fascinating facts to fill any lull in conversation for many years to come.

Among the 50 trees to attract Hooper's attention is the sycamore in Barnes, southwest London, into which a car carrying the glam rock legend Marc Bolan crashed in September 1977, killing the singer outright. Another is the Birnam Oak in Perthshire, the last remaining tree of Birnam Wood (of *Macbeth* fame), which may well have been standing in 1599 when a group of London players, among them a young actor called William Shakespeare, is said to have visited Perthshire.

Even older is the 1,000-year-old Oak at the Gate of the Dead, near Offa's Dyke, which marks the approach to Ceiriog Valley. It was here in 1165 that Welsh forces under Owain Gwynedd ambushed Henry II's invading English army; the dead from the battle are buried nearby.

This then is a book that is as much about British history and culture as it is about trees. The essay on the St Lawrence Lime in Canterbury, Kent, begins with a list of reasons to love cricket, before explaining just how the tree ended up on the boundary of a first-class cricket ground. In short, it's an uncategorisable book that could be hard work if read in a single sitting, but is an absolute delight to savour one tree at a time.

BOOK REVIEWS


The HEALTHY Vegetable Garden
A natural, chemical-free approach to soil, biodiversity and managing pests and diseases
Sally Morgan

THE HEALTHY VEGETABLE GARDEN

by Sally Morgan

Chelsea Green Publishing Co, £22
ISBN 978-1645020646

A 'grow-your-own' book with a difference that advocates diverse, stable and resilient growing conditions for a healthier environment.

Reviewer Rae Spencer-Jones is books publisher at the RHS.

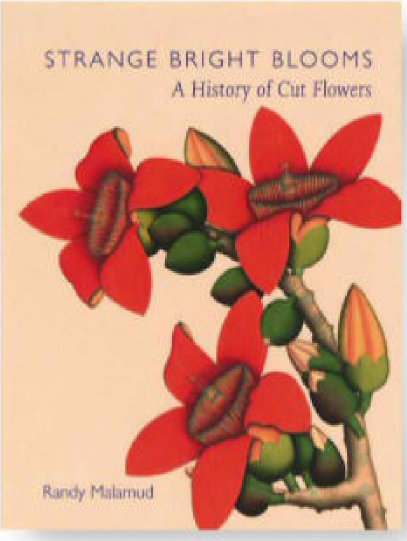
Books on growing your own produce often focus on vegetable and fruit cultivars, cultivation techniques and harvesting, but this title champions resilient and stable environments where vegetables thrive with minimal threat from pests, disease and climate change.

Morgan is editor of the Soil Association's *Organic Farming* magazine, and her key to success is the creation of diverse habitats. She advocates healthy soils where nutrients are maximised using a chemical-free approach, and encourages growing vegetables alongside flowering plants to attract beneficial natural predators.

The first third of the book is devoted to garden soil. Morgan scrutinises soil content, from minerals and organic matter to the fascinating rhizosphere – an ecosystem where plant roots and organic matter create an environment to support soil life. There is information on soil pH, and a full chapter on soil regeneration. She champions the no-dig technique, noting that although slower to warm up in spring, by summer no-dig soil is cooler and holds water better than soil that has been dug.

Chapters on pests and diseases touch on the impact of climate change. Temperature changes stress plants, making them susceptible to disease and pests. As an antidote to the latter, Morgan recommends techniques such as using beetle banks to encourage natural predators, and advises creating shelter for insects in winter. There is also advice on planting for diversity: choose the right plants to attract the predators, employ companion planting, or use barrier crops to reduce the number of airborne pests.

Manual-like in approach, this book makes up for a relative lack of glamour with rich, accessible information. It sends an important and inspiring message; if our gardens become diverse, healthy ecosystems, we are contributing to a healthier environment. And that has to benefit us all.



STRANGE BRIGHT BLOOMS: A HISTORY OF CUT FLOWERS

by Randy Malamud

Reaktion Books, £29
ISBN 978-1789144017

A fascinating and sometimes challenging literary collection of thoughts on the subject of cut blooms and our relationship with them.

Reviewer Jacky Mills is a gardener and garden writer.

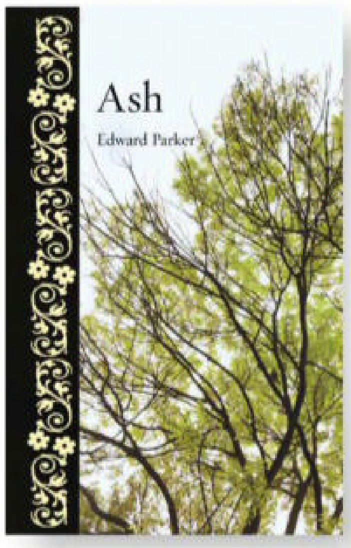
As a keen flower arranger, my attention is piqued by anyone attempting to distil over a 1,000 years of floristry into a single book. Randy Malamud's ambitious new work invites us on a journey to discover the allure of cut flowers through prose and art. He examines the ethics of cutting these luxuriant emblems of wealth and explores how their symbolism extends to all corners of our existence, from celebration and despair to worship and solace.

Split into five sections, the first part reflects on flowery poems by a select handful of poets in a swirl of floral writing befitting the author's role as a professor of English. Thinking of flowers as biological systems driven by light neatly introduces the next section, on flowers in art, which briefly compares the techniques used by a smattering of artists to capture light in their work.

The third section, on flower sellers, examines how our need to connect with the natural world has been manipulated to create a vast industry exploiting our worldwide customs and desires. Full of moral and ethical implications based on consumerism and capitalist values, the environmental toll and health risks of this billion-dollar industry are exposed, challenging our perceptions of the floral trade – ironically, by trying to appreciate nature close up, we are in great danger of damaging it.

A discussion on the social effect of gender, sexuality, race and class follows, and the final section, flowers of war, looks at attempts to weaponise flowers, in, for example, chemical warfare.

This is not a glossy, coffee-table book featuring luxuriant and stylishly arranged blooms, but a thought-provoking insight into our love affair with flowers and a global industry at odds with the product it promotes. Above all, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own attitudes towards cut flowers.



ASH

by Edward Parker

Reaktion Books £16
ISBN 978-1789143560

A detailed and informative book that reveals the botanical secrets and fascinating history of an iconic tree that is both familiar and threatened.

Reviewer Naomi Slade is a garden writer and designer.

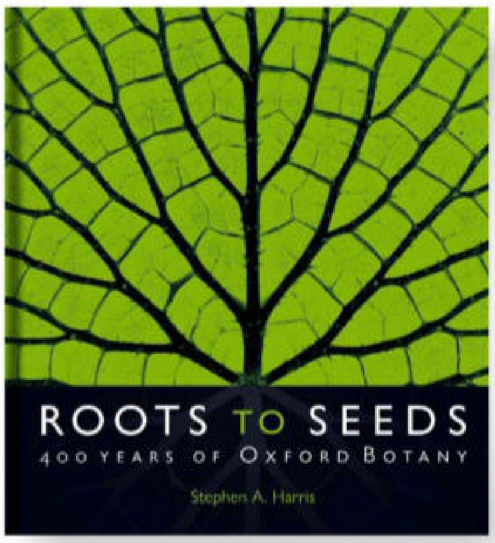
Beautiful, venerable and ever-present, the story of the ash tree has been intertwined with our own for aeons. Yet even old friends can have hidden depths and, in his new book, Edward Parker explores the evolution and cultural significance of the 43 species of *Fraxinus* that exist in the northern hemisphere.

The book begins with a chapter on morphology, botany and distribution, then proceeds to address threats such as ash dieback and emerald ash-borer beetle in a way that leaves the reader feeling informed, if not entirely encouraged.

The mythology of ash is intriguing and its extensive array of cultural and practical reveal a complex and diverse history. It seems that whether you are a wizard with a wooden staff in a sacred grove, an early human identifying wood with a low moisture content for your fire, or a Norse or Greek god in need of a spear, the adaptable ash will oblige. It appears in many folk traditions, and, although ash was historically used to cure everything from snake bites to fever, there may be more modern benefits, with research indicating promising treatments for both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

While the author's expertise is not in doubt, *Ash* is a firm editorial hand away from perfection. It swings between botanical confidence and nervous storytelling, seemingly uncertain whether the remit is that of scientific report, popular monograph or informal encyclopaedia, and a tendency to repeat facts, combined with a superfluity of bracketed clarifications, makes for a somewhat bumpy read.

Nevertheless, this book has much to recommend it. Thoughtful, even poetic in places, it covers scientific and medical information thoroughly, and the treatment of history, myth and folklore makes it a wonderful sourcebook. For this it is worth its space on any shelf.



ROOTS TO SEEDS: 400 YEARS OF OXFORD BOTANY

by Stephen A Harris

Bodleian Libraries, £40
ISBN 978-1851245611

Compelling chronicle of the history of botany and plant sciences in Oxford, celebrating the enduring value of botanical gardens to humanity.

Reviewer Petra Hoyer Millar is a garden writer and blogger.

Marking the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the Oxford Botanic Garden, *Roots to Seeds* records four centuries of diverse heritage of botanical sciences at the University of Oxford, unmasking the rich collections at the Botanic Garden and Arboretum, Oxford University Herbaria and Bodleian Libraries.

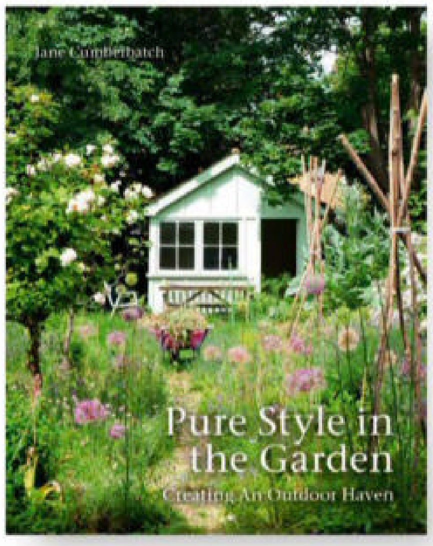
Stephen A Harris (Druce Curator of Oxford University Herbaria) charts the episodic botanical milestones, from Robert Morison's plant classification in 1680s and Johann Dillenius's taxonomy of lower plants in 1700s, through Charles Daubeny's enrichment of botany with chemistry and geology, and Darwin's evolutionary biology, to present-day genetics and plant conservation.

Central to the book are the extensive botanical collections, assembled by intrepid collectors. Harris introduces the audacious characters involved, their methods of collecting, the science they carried out, and their legacies.

The inception of the Oxford Botanic Garden, unique in terms of its history and academic location, is especially intriguing. Set in a flood-prone meadow, the original Physic Garden was a place for medicinal inspiration, but over time scientific interest shifted to plants themselves, giving birth to the discipline of botany. The new Botanic Garden encouraged experimentation with plants, laid the foundations for taxonomy and emboldened collectors to travel to brave new worlds in search of plant diversity.

Roots to Seeds is a reflection of the achievements and knowledge of humanity, culminating in this case in a vast suppository of information for botanical study. Harris's brilliant book celebrates the value of botanic gardens as places of academic research and pleasure, crucially underlying that vital link to the natural world. Botanic gardens are markers of civilisation and culture, and thereby catalysts for a better world.

BOOK REVIEWS


Jane Cumberbatch
Pure Style in the Garden
Creating An Outdoor Haven

PURE STYLE IN THE GARDEN: CREATING AN OUTDOOR HAVEN
by Jane Cumberbatch

Pimpernel Press, £20
ISBN 978-1910258064

Create your own stylish sanctuary in the garden, inspired by the gardening year of former House & Garden *decorating editor Jane Cumberbatch.*

Reviewer Sonya Patel Ellis is a writer, editor and artist.

Pure Style in the Garden takes Jane Cumberbatch's signature 'pure style' philosophy – making the most out of the simple and beautiful pleasures in life and in the home – and takes it down the garden path of her beautiful Victorian home in south London.

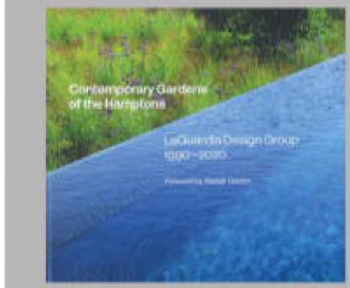
The rich tapestry of garden journaling, horticultural advice, nature-inspired recipes and home-styling tips, illustrated with photographs and Jane's own paintings, mirrors the parterre-and-potager-inspired layout of the space and the planting within. The book takes the reader on a seasonal journey through the gardening year from January to December, but the end game is anything but prescriptive. Instead, it gives nature a backdrop of order in which to ramble and unwind, just enough of an experienced edit to keep things from going completely wild.

Although not written during lockdown, the author's nature notes on anything from emerging spring shoots and the wabi-sabi decay of autumn to inspiring book suggestions (*Outlines of a Small Garden* by CH Middleton, 1945) and al-fresco dining ideas (a fresh salad of cauliflower, pomegranate and pistachio) will strike a chord with those of us who turned to gardening, journaling, art or cooking as therapy during uncertain times. It's also brimming with the kind of seasoned wisdom that knows how to deliver a succession of spring and summer blooms: narcissi under the tree; tulips and alliums in the borders; dahlias and agapanthus in pots.

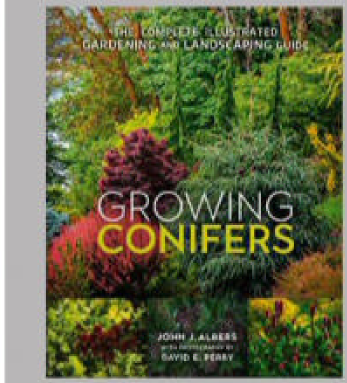
As furniture and cushions make their way into the garden, so nature finds its way into the author's pared-down, vintage-filled home via Constance Spry-style arrangements of blooms, herbs and edibles, or the poetic leaning of a dried cardoon against a white wall. A rose-laden blueprint for anyone wanting to develop and record their own outdoor haven of pure style.

Other books

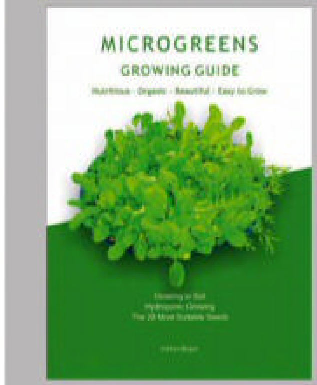
This month's additional books cover design to die for and growing guides for everything from microgreens to conifers.


Contemporary Gardens of the Hamptons
LaGuardia Design Group

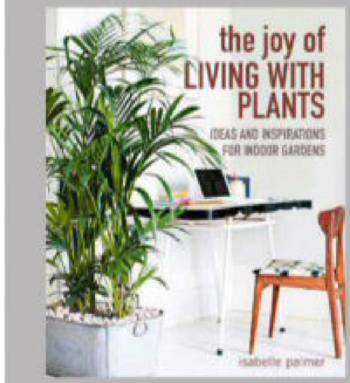
CONTEMPORARY GARDENS OF THE HAMPTONS
by LaGuardia Design Group,
Monacelli Press, £40
ISBN 978-1580935654
This monograph details some of the meticulous, quality, landscape design work of Laguardia Design Group in the Hamptons, USA.


THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING GUIDE
GROWING CONIFERS
JOHN J. ALBERS
DAVID E. PERRY

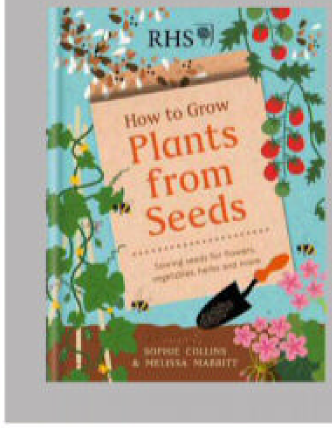
GROWING CONIFERS
by John J Albers (photographs by David E Perry)
New Society Publishers, £28.99
ISBN 978-0865719569
Full of stunning images, this detailed guide covers selection, growing needs, healthy soil requirements and the benefits of conifers.


MICROGREENS
GROWING GUIDE

MICROGREENS GROWING GUIDE
by Stefan Mager
Aracaria Biodynamic Farm, £7.99
ISBN 978-780987166814
A comprehensive guide to growing your own organic microgreens at home, including detailed discussion of 28 microseeds and an eight-page, fold-out chart.


the joy of
LIVING WITH PLANTS
IDEAS AND INSPIRATIONS FOR INDOOR GARDENS
isabelle palmer

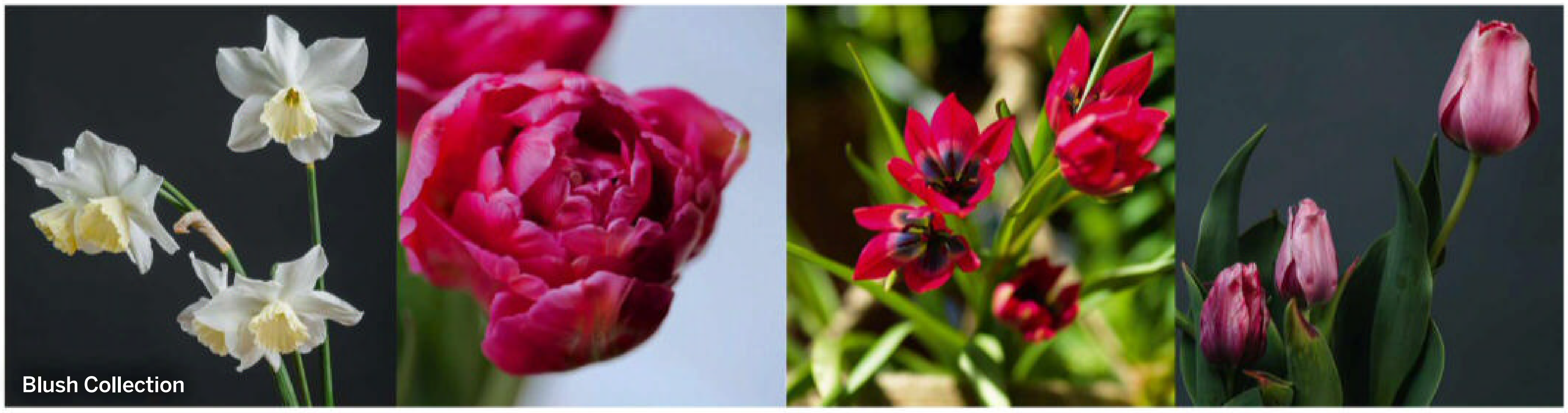
THE JOY OF LIVING WITH PLANTS
by Isabelle Palmer
CICO Books, £9.99
ISBN 978-1800650275
A colourful book packed with over 60 inspiring and stylish projects to transform your living space into a houseplant haven.

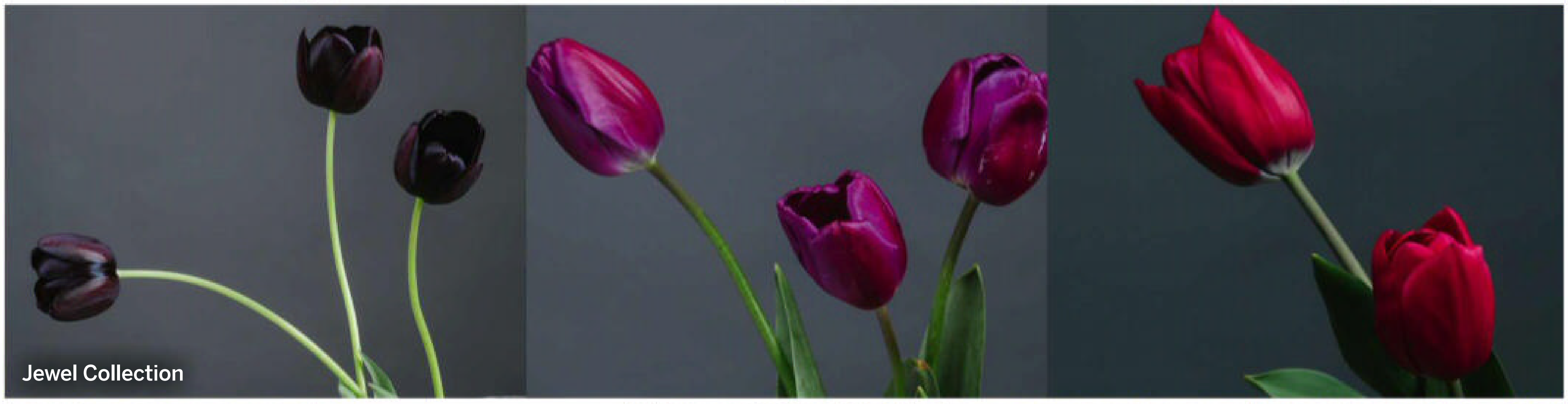

RHS
How to Grow
Plants from Seeds
SOPHIE COLLINS
& MELISSA MABBITT

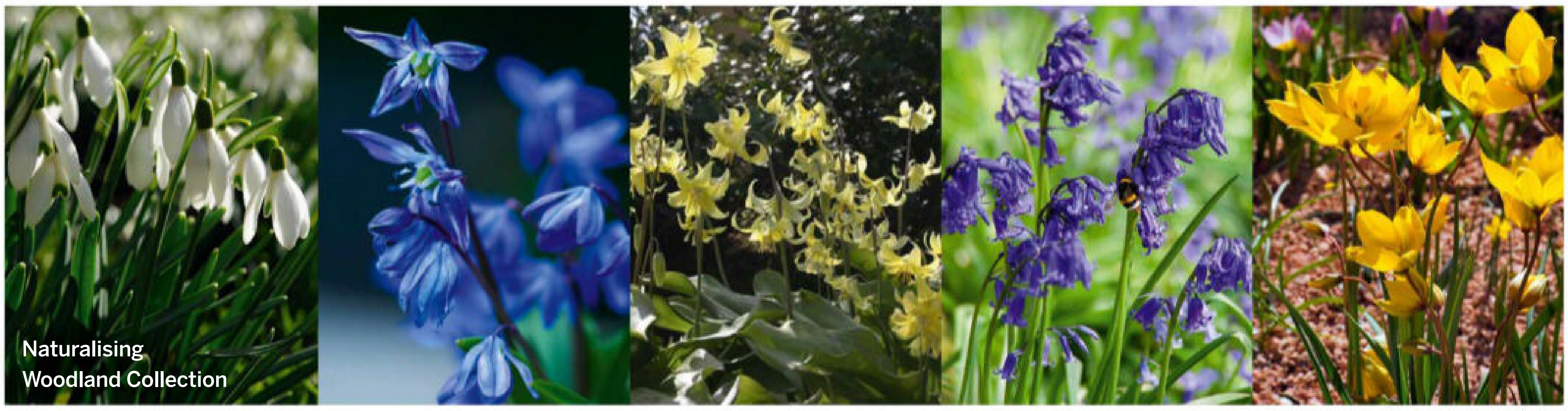
RHS HOW TO GROW PLANTS FROM SEEDS
by Sophie Collins
Octopus Publishing Group, £12.99
ISBN 978-1784727628
A practical, comprehensive guide on everything you need to know about sowing seeds for flowers, herbs, vegetables and much more.

READER OFFER

Save 15%* on spring-flowering bulb collections from organicbulbs.com


Blush Collection


Jewel Collection


Naturalising Woodland Collection

Make your bulb orders in plenty of time this year to ensure you receive your favourite choices and are ready for the planting season just around the corner.

Designers Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt from Organic Bulbs have created these exquisite collections to enhance spring planting in a variety of gardens and landscapes. *Gardens Illustrated* readers can take advantage of a 15 per cent discount*.

Choose from a unique selection of favourites: for the cutting garden, a rich, jewel-toned collection of elegant tulips, or if space is limited, the romantic Blush Collection of tender white, delicate rose and pink blooms is ideal for pots, adding warmth and colour to spring gardens. Looking at the garden more broadly, the naturalising woodland collection provides an essential food source for pollinating insects and will return year after year.

HOW TO ORDER

To order bulbs and claim your 15 per cent discount*, please visit **organicbulbs.com**, make your selection and apply code **GIOB21** at the checkout. Alternatively email sales@organicbulbs.com. **Offer expires** 30 September 2021. P&P is calculated by weight with a standard starting cost of £4.95. Deliveries to Northern Ireland and EU will incur additional customs charges. *Discount applies to these specific bulbs only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. For details of these and other specially selected bulb collections from Organic Bulbs visit **gardensillustrated.com/offers**

Blush Collection
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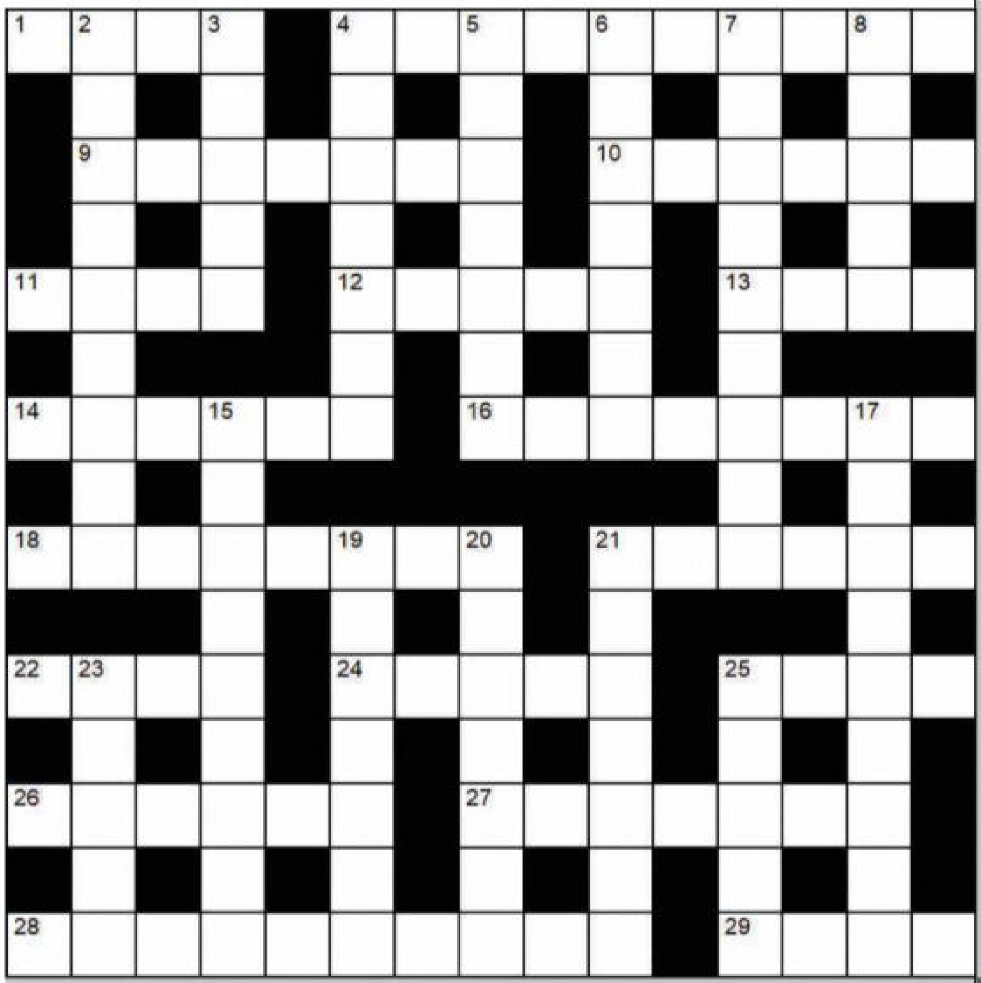
OFFER PRICE £25.50 (rrp £30)

Jewel Collection
Tulipa 'Queen of Night', 35cm (x15 bulbs); *Tulipa* 'Purple Flag', 40cm (x15); *Tulipa.* 'Pallada', 40cm (x15).
OFFER PRICE £25.50 (rrp £30)

Naturalising Woodland Collection
Galanthus nivalis, 10cm (x25); *Scilla siberica*, 10-20cm (x20); *Erythronium* 'Pagoda', 25-30cm (x10); *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, 35cm (x25); *Tulipa sylvestris*, 15-20cm (x20).
OFFER PRICE £55.25 (rrp £65)

Crossword



ACROSS

1 Dig around in soil – for insect larva (4)
4 Common name for any plant in *Geranium* genus (10)
9 Appropriately named, exceptionally large-flowering peony (7)
10 Irrigates… top of withered aster variety (6)
11 Name of a vigorous F1 strawberry, good for hanging baskets – 'Welsh reservoir valley'? (4)
12 Eg water plants used for thatching (5)
13 See 3 down
14 A clematis with purple-veined, cream flowers… and blackcurrant liqueur (6)
16 A fiery-orange *Montbretia*/*Crocosmia* cultivar… for a quick-tempered person (8)
18 Genus of plants commonly called false hellebore… arum 'Vert' perhaps? (8)
21 Snowbell tree genus, version of stray 'X' (6)
22 Wise man's herb of the *Salvia* genus (4)
24 See 3 down
25 Rudimentary plant growths (4)
26 Term for the zone at the base of a lily's petals (6)
27 Genus of 'mask flower' plant… hidden by petal on soapwort (7)
28 Symmetrical bed design bounded by clipped topiary (4,6)
29 Flower associated with eg martagon or Madonna (4)

DOWN

2 *Hypericum* cultivar, named after the N Ireland National Trust garden (9)
3/13/24 Common name of *Rudbeckia triloba* – as renowned by us, perhaps (5-4,5)
4 In secrecy, perused a genus of plants with grass-like leaves (7)
5 Unventilated, a state that could encourage eg tomato blight (7)
6 Snowdrop species named after a Victorian galanthophile – ie Lewis, perhaps (7)
7 An *Echinacea* (coneflower) series, and an insect it attracts (9)
8 Sizeable (5)
15 Common name of *Ageratina altissima* – twisting on aster, OK? (9)
17 Peach-coloured shrub rose, named after author of *James and the Giant Peach* (5,4)
19 A magenta-veined, pink-flowering *Geranium* cultivar – rotates wildly! (7)
20 Brassica plant that makes good green manure – cut it and impress? (7)
21 An orange-flowering *Echinacea* in 'Big Sky' series – 'Dusk'? (7)
23 Pallid colour – of *Fraxinus excelsior* tree? (5)
25 Describes cuttings taken at ground level (5)

- **Solutions to this issue's crossword will be printed in the September issue**

SOLUTION TO JULY ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 9 Araucaria **10** Tansy **11** Viper **12** Paperbush **13** Tellima **15** Orchids **18** Leaflet **20** Brassia **21** Anemone **23** Radicle **25** Meadow rue **27** Birch **28** Spike **29** Hortensia. **DOWN 1** Sanvitalia **2** Carpel **3** Acer **4** Urn plant **5** Sappho **6** Star **7** Knautias **8** Wych **14** Igloo **16** Chard **17** Snake's head **19** Arenaria **20** Barberry **22** Earthy **24** Cerise **25** Musk **26** Ogen **27** Bees.

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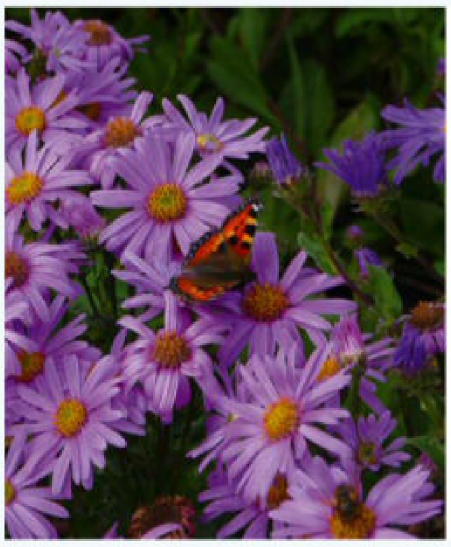
Summer nursery guide

Get inspired for the summer season with the best plant and bulb suppliers



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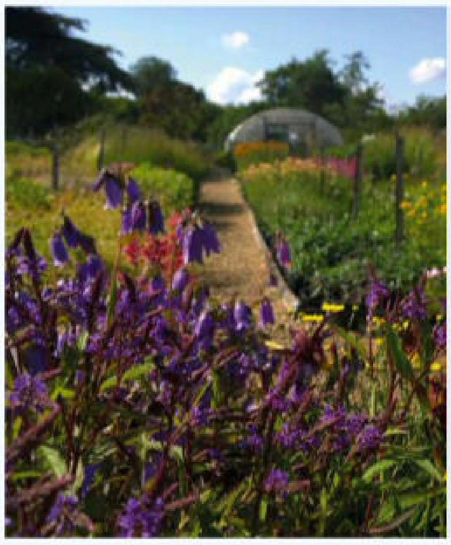

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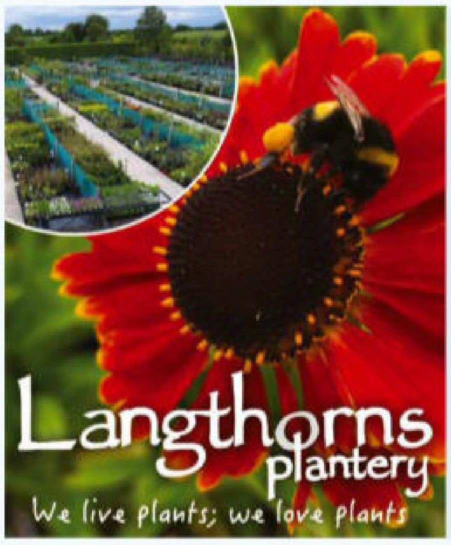

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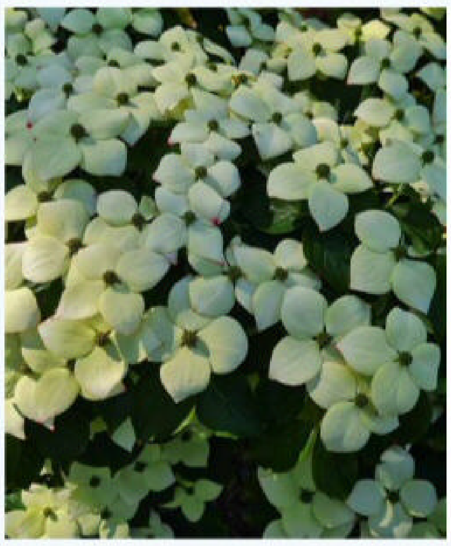
langthorns.com
01371 872611



BLUEBELL ARBORETUM & NURSERY

Specialists in hardy trees, shrubs and climbers including a huge selection of unusual species and cultivars. Informative website and a reliable mail-order service is available.

bluebellnursery.com
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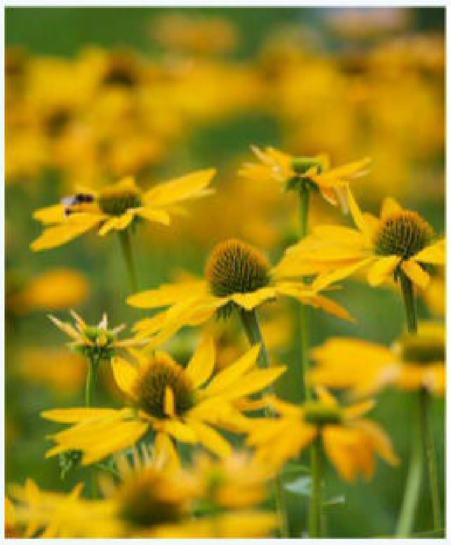

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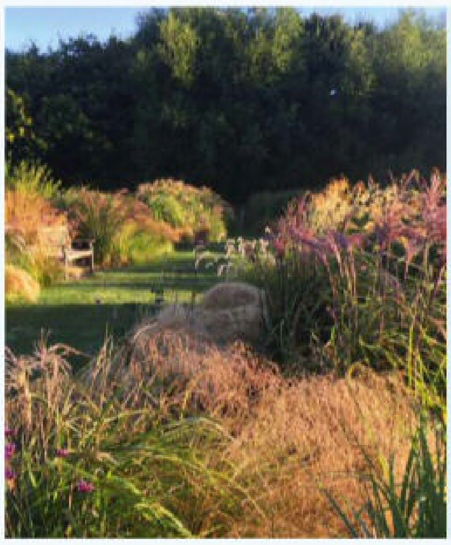

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meadowgatenursery.co.uk
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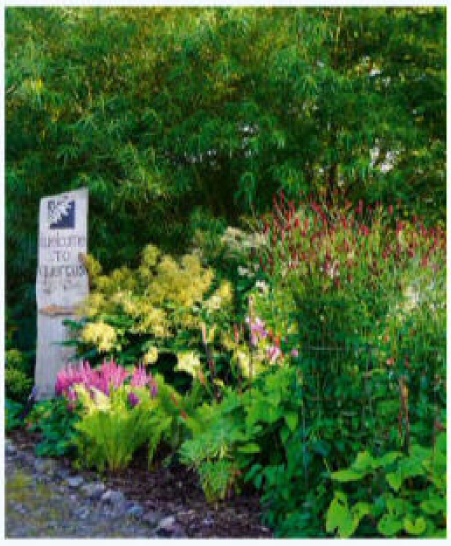

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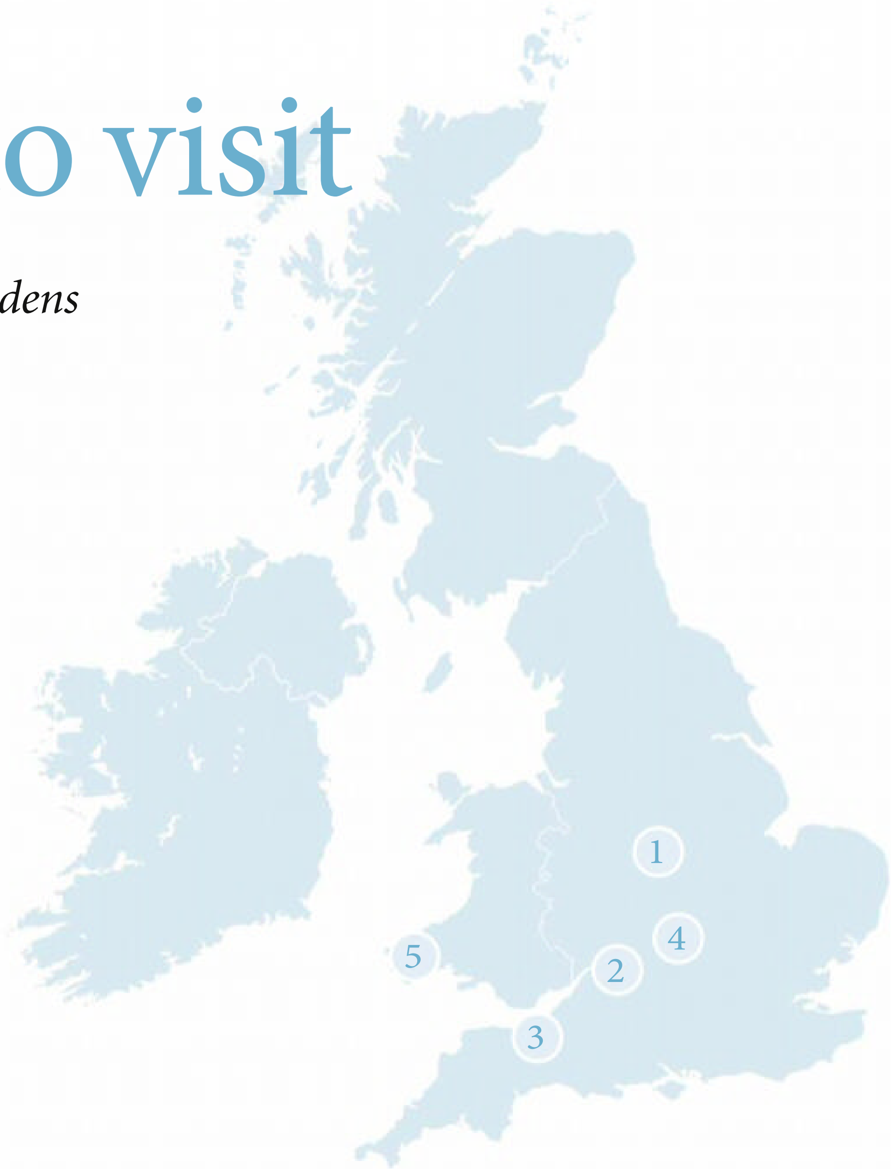
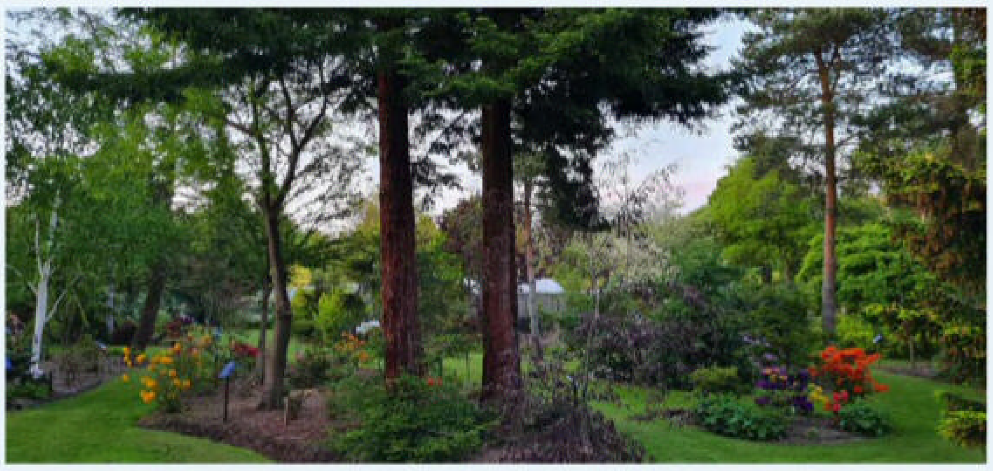
Summer gardens to visit

Summer is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens





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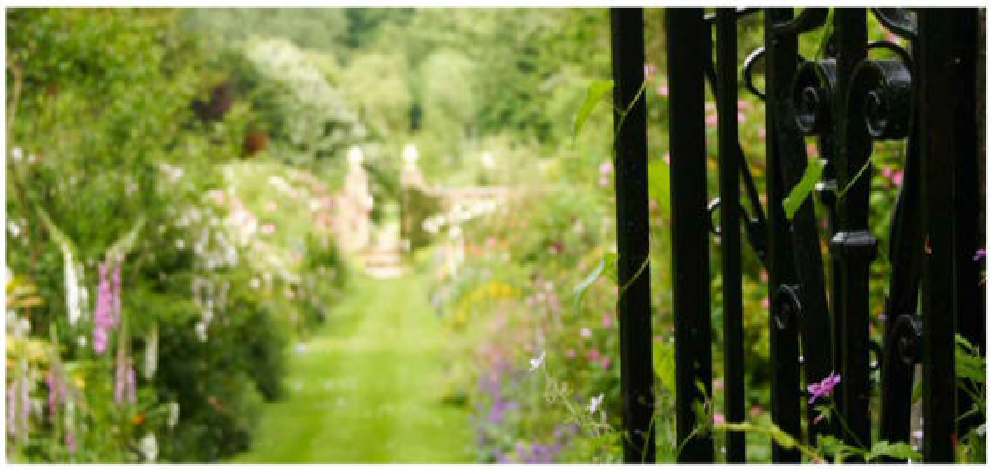
Smisby, South Derbyshire LE65 2TA | 01530 413700 | bluebellnursery.com



2 CERNEY HOUSE GARDENS

Cerney House Gardens is a romantic English garden. There is a beautiful secluded Victorian walled garden which features herbaceous borders overflowing with plants. Enjoy the informal planting in combination with our beautiful setting, as well as our woodland walk and extended nature trail.

North Cerney, Cirencester GL7 7BX | 01285 831300 | cerneygardens.com

3 HESTERCOMBE GARDENS

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Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LQ | 01823 413923 | hestercombe.com

4 KINGSTON BAGPUIZE HOUSE

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Nr Abingdon OX13 5AX | 01865 820259 | kbhevents.uk

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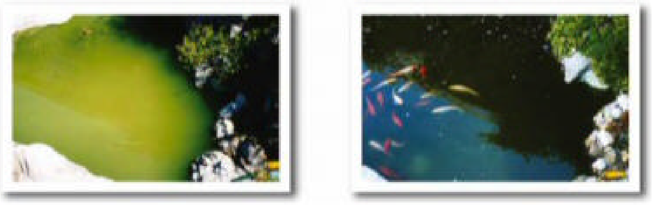

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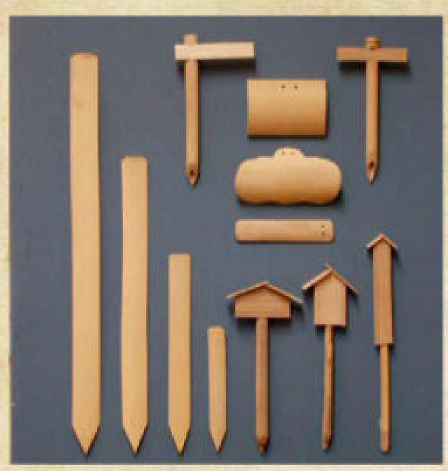

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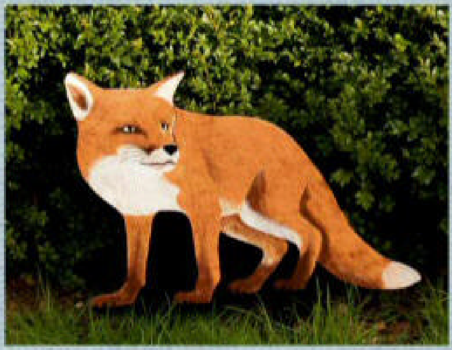

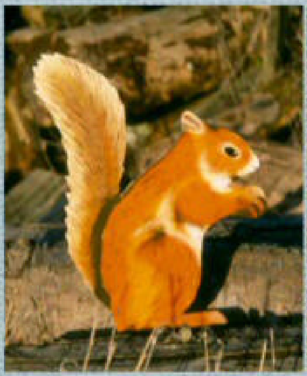

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SEPTEMBER

- James Hitchmough's grassland garden at the Horniman
- Mellow yellow displays for a last burst of summer
- The plant-filled garden at Bluebell Cottage, Cheshire
- We revisit Patricia Stainton's Cooks Farm after almost 20 years and see how her approach has evolved
- What to look out for at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

CLAIRE TAKACS, JASON INGRAM, RICHARD BLOOM, CAITLIN ATKINSON

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How to spend a gardener's weekend in…

Dublin and environs

Alongside historic estates, new gardens and restoration projects are putting Ireland on the horticultural map, and there's no need to stray far from the capital to sample their delights

The surprise of County Wicklow is that the mountainous landscape, reminiscent of Ireland's celebrated southwest, is only an hour's drive from South Dublin. Between heavyweight gardens near Dublin such as Powerscourt and Killruddery, and newer gardens of growing renown such as June Blake's Garden (Tinode, West Wicklow) and her brother Jimi Blake's Hunting Brook, are dozens of places steeped in atmosphere and plantsmanship.

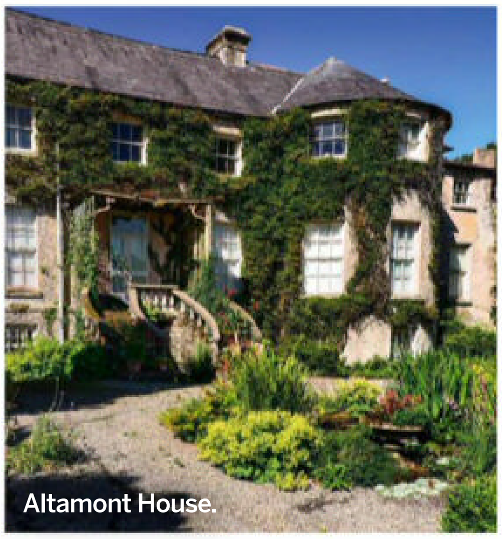
County Wicklow

Charm and Anglo-Irish gentility can be found in quantity at **Kilmacurragh,** which features a ruined house, built by the Acton family in the 18th century, and an arboretum paired with the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin. **Corke Lodge** "is as close as it gets to Irish tropical," says our trusted source Joseph Downing. The sublime gardens surround an 1820s Gothic villa, owned by architect-artist Alfred Cochrane. The recently developed gardens at **Trudder Grange** surround a Georgian cube of a house, and **Mount Usher** has informal, self-styled 'Robinsonian' grounds, currently leased to retail food company Avoca, providing a café and bakery. The **Dower House**, Ashford – described by 18th-century artist Mary Delany as a 'neatly laid out estate' – is famed for its rhododendrons and magnolias.

Mount Usher Gardens.

County Kilkenny

In neighbouring Kilkenny, several garden restorations and works-in-progress are well worth a detour and are often open by appointment. The walled garden at **Castle Blunden**, an 18th-century family home flanked by small lakes, is being tackled by Regina Perceval-Blunden (email regina@castleblunden.com).



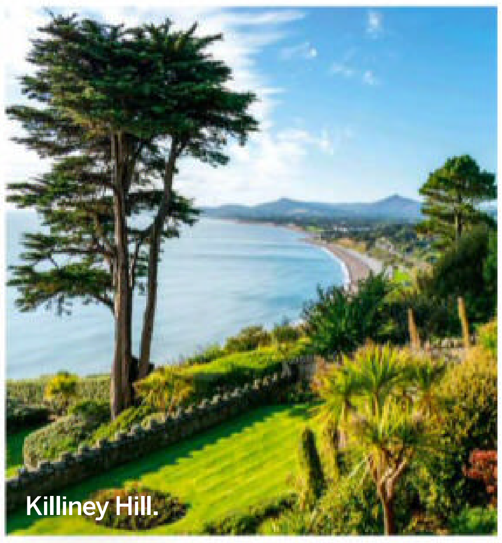
Altamont House.

Heritage expert Christopher Moore is currently restoring the five-and-a-half-acre garden around **Dangan Cottage** (Thomastown), a late 18th-century dower house on the River Nore (if you want to arrange a group visit to the garden you can email cmoorespdec@gmail.com). **Kilfane Glen and Waterfall**, the former home of the ancient Irish Le Poer (Power) family, is open in July and August, and in County Carlow, take a picnic to the bucolic **Altamont House**.

Dublin itself

If you're stopping off for shopping, Powerscourt Townhouse Centre in Dublin offers a range of good boutiques and cafés under one splendid roof (including floral design studio **The Garden**). Just off Grafton Street, **Stable of Ireland** is a craft and design shop of dreams, supporting Irish weavers and makers. Just northwest of Dublin, 50 acres of landscaped and walled gardens around **Tyrrelstown House** are open to groups by appointment. The ancient park includes an arboretum and wildflower meadows. Closer to town, **Farmleigh** is the former hub of the Guinness family, now functioning as state guesthouse for visiting dignitaries. The house is surrounded by pleasure grounds and a working farm, and retains a family atmosphere despite being state-owned. Entry to the gardens is free of charge.

Dun Laoghaire Harbour.



Killiney Hill.

Dublin environs

In South Dublin, **Monkstown** village has a pleasant eating and shopping street a short walk from the sea, including **Howbert & Mays** garden shop. **Dun Laoghaire Harbour** has two lovely piers for walking; head to locals' favourite, the west pier. Forty Foot is a swimming spot nearby; the water is freezing, but it is a popular spot and is located behind the Martello tower, which features in the opening chapter of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. At weekends, nearby **People's Park** hosts a farmers' market. Further south along the coast, a hilly yet worthwhile walk begins from **Dalkey** village via Coliemore Harbour into Killiney Hill Park. **Killiney** is considered to be Ireland's own Amalfi Coast; go for a swim, or just the view at Vico cove.

Souvenirs

Best walk Luggala, former Guinness estate in the Wicklow Mountains.

Best food experience Avoca, Monkstown, South Dublin.

Best train ride with a view DART train from Dalkey to Killiney, followed by a walk on Killiney Beach and refreshment from Fred & Nancy's coffee caravan.

Best pick-me-up Haddington House, Dun Laoghaire, South Dublin.

Best browse The Garden shop at Powerscourt Townhouse, Dublin.

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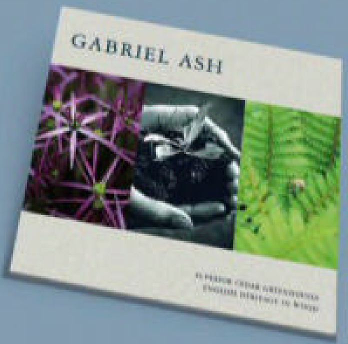

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